~THE STRONGEST BRIDE ON EARTH~

SUMOMOMO, MOMOMO

5

SHINOBU OHTAKA

The strongest bride on earth.
Sumomomo Momomo.5
Shinobu Ohtaka

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SUMOMOMO,MOMOMO

31. GLADIATORIAL SOCCER (2)

BYE-BYE, NII-CHAN...
ガッ!!
GUAA (ZWOOOSH)
TENKAAAA!!
DOSHUUU (DSHHH)
ドン!!

.....
.....
UUUU (SHHH..)

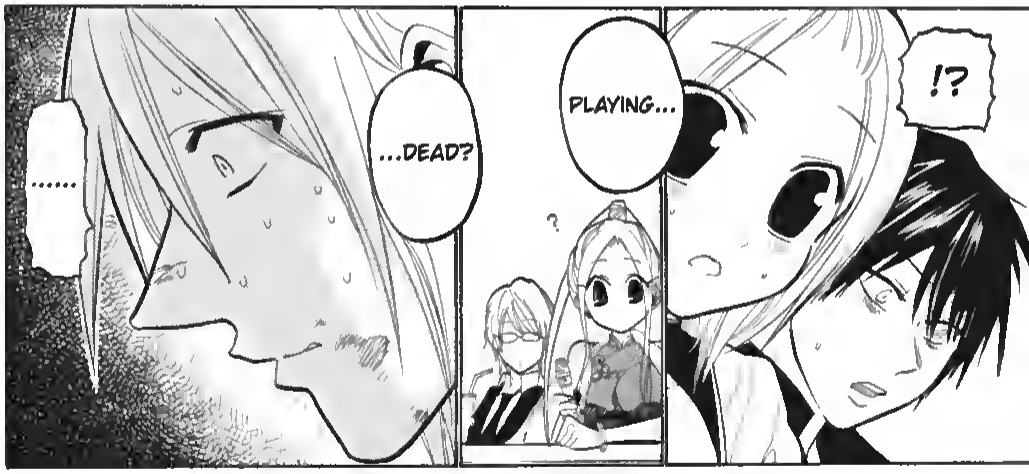
HELLO?
GET UP.
HEY.
NII-CHAN?
.....

.....
FOR-GET IT.

YOU'RE NOT FOOLING ANYONE.
GET THE HELL UP.
COME ON.

HEY, EVERY-BODY!
SOOOO (SHFF)

!!
GUESS WHAT?
HE'S PLAYING DEAD!
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

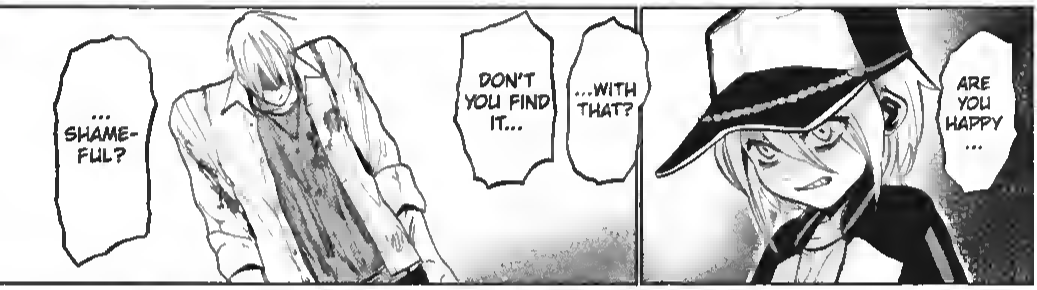

.....
...DEAD?
PLAYING...
!?

.....
.....
"I'LL JUST GO DOWN REAL QUICK ON THE RIGHT? FIRST HIT."
"BUT I CAN'T SURRENDER, OR I'LL FEEL LIKE I'M BETRAYING MY FRIENDS.
GUI (YANK)
"THIS IS TOO HARD.
"I CAN'T WIN.

BETTER WATCH OUT, PEOPLE!
THAT'S JUST WHAT HE'S LIKE!
HE PUTS HIMSELF BEFORE HIS FRIENDS.
HE TRIES TO LOOK GOOD.
HE'LL GIVE UP AND RUN AWAY IF IT MAKES THINGS EASIER FOR HIM.
AND HE'S ALWAYS...
...BEEN LIKE THAT.
.....
.....
...THERE WERE TWO BROTHERS WHO WERE CLOSE.
YEARS AGO.....
THE ELDER TAUGHT THE YOUNGER ABOUT FIGHTING AND SOCCER.
HE WAS A GREAT BROTHER.
.....

AT LEAST...
...WHILE HE WAS THE STRONGER ONE.
THE ELDER BROTHER WORRIED...
...ABOUT THE YOUNGER'S QUICK PROGRESS.
WHAT IF THE ONLY PERSON HE WAS STILL BETTER THAN...
...LEFT HIM IN THE DUST AS EVERYONE ELSE HAD ALREADY DONE?
HE WOULD HAVE LOST ALL STANDING AND RESPECT WITHIN THE FAMILY...
.....
!
AND THEN...
...YOU STOPPED TALKING TO ME...
...EACH TIME I LEARNED A NEW SKILL.
AND THEN...
...YOU STOPPED TEACHING ME SOCCER.

WHAT WAS THAT?
THAT STUPID, UNCOMFORTABLE SMILE.
YOU LOST TO YOUR LITTLE BROTHER...
... AND GOT SCARED ...
...AND RAN...


ARE YOU HAPPY ...
...WITH THAT?
DON'T YOU FIND IT...
... SHAMEFUL?

DON'T YOU FEEL...
...EMBARRASSED AT YOURSELF!?
WELL !?

!!
WELL !!!?
GA (THWAK)
GUSHA (STOMP)
FORGET IT...
JUST FORGET IT!!
.....

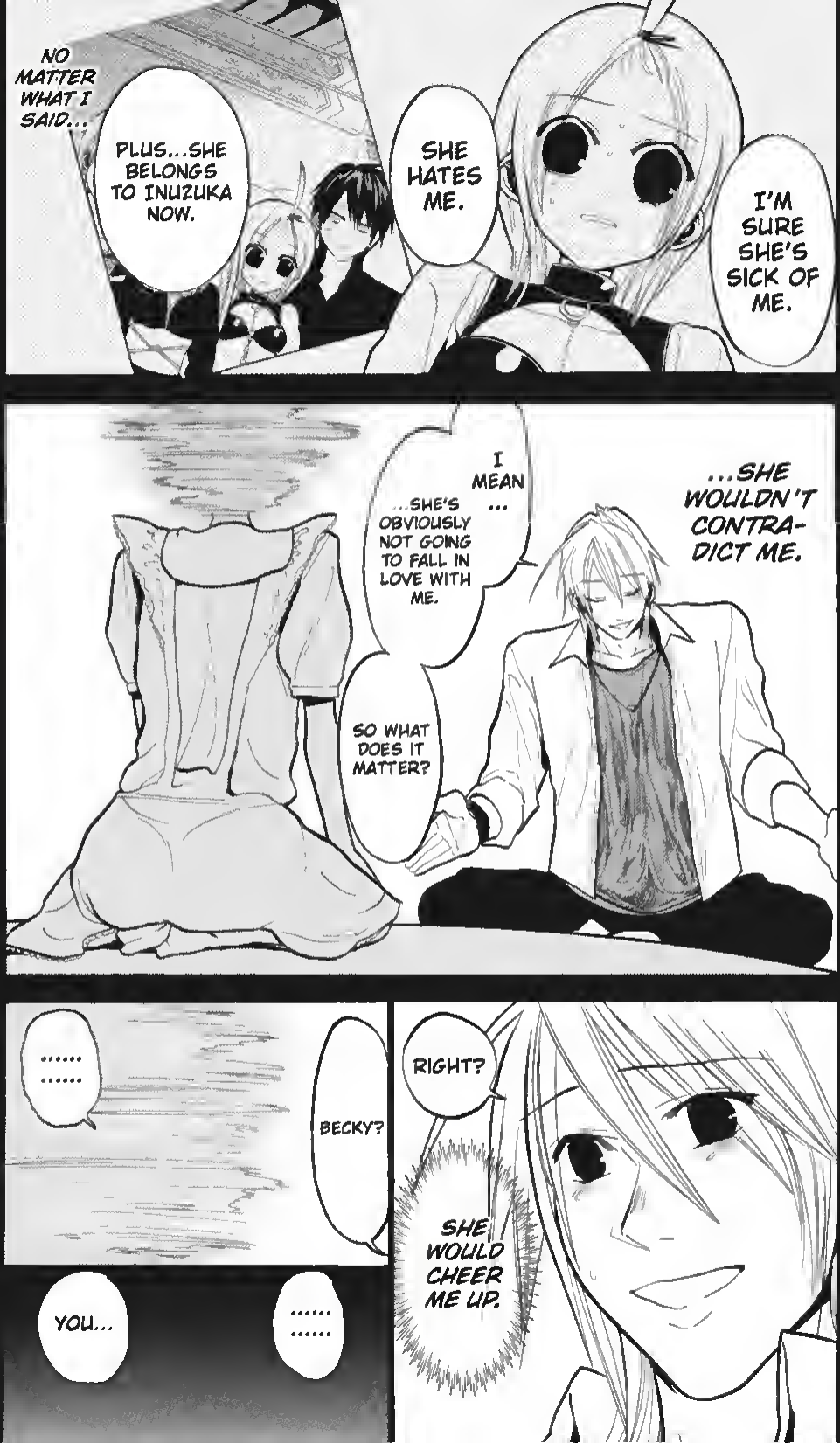
CRAWL ALONG THE GROUND...
...AND DRAG YOURSELF INTO THE GOAL NET.
BEG FOR FORGIVE-NESS WHILE YOU'RE AT IT...
HA (GASP)
!?
...AND IF YOU'RE LUCKY...
...I'LL LET THAT BE THE END OF IT!!

.....
.....
(WHOOOSH)
DAMN IT...
THIS IS SO PATHETIC...
AND IT JUST HAD TO HAPPEN ...
... RIGHT IN FRONT OF MOMOKO.
HERE I AM...
...LYING PROS-TRATE BEFORE HIM.
.....
KNEEL ON THE GROUND LIKE THE LOSER YOU ARE

THAT'S RIGHT...
...MOMOKO SAVED HIM.
BUT WHAT DID INUZUKA DO...?
CHIRA (PEEK)
ZU (MMPH)
.....
!
GET MOVING.
GA (WHACK)
HEY.
I'VE BEEN SHAMED AND DISGRACED...
NO ONE IS GOING TO COME TO MY AID...
I CAN'T... I CAN'T DO IT...

...WHO UNDER-STANDS ME!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE...
HA HA HA...
GET MOV-ING.
YOU'RE CRAZY.
ZU (DRAG)
ZU
YOUR "FRIEND" IS WAITING FOR YOU IN THE GOAL.
WHAT? NOT THAT AGAIN!
SHE WOULD CHEER ME UP.
...SHE WOULDN'T CONTRADICT ME.
NO MATTER WHAT I SAID...
WHEN BAD THINGS HAP-PENED...
SHE'S A GOOD FRIEND.

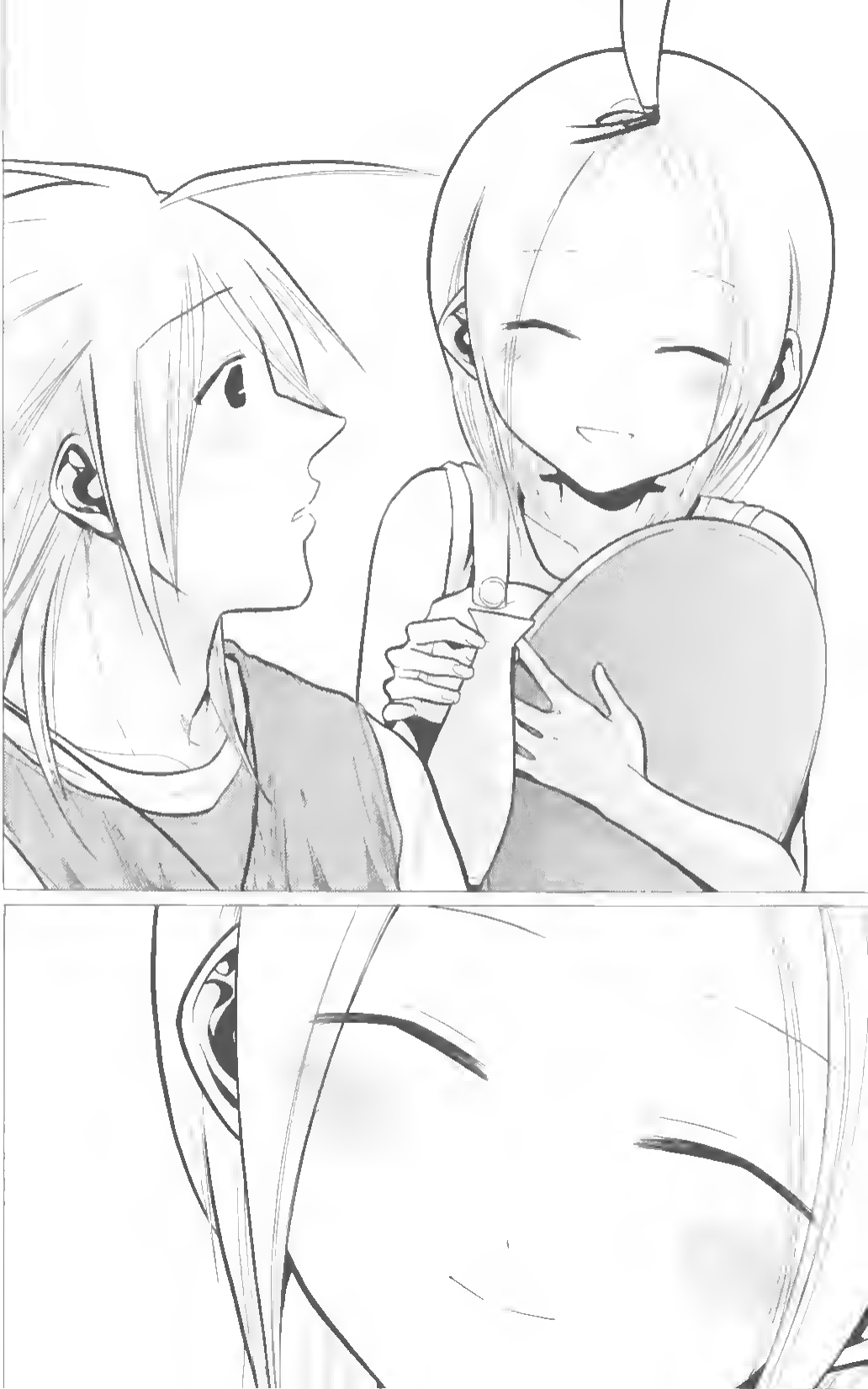
KAKON (THUNK)
カコーン
BECKY...
.....
SO...
...I THINK...
...I'M SCREWED THIS TIME.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME ...
...BACK HOME...
I WANTED TO RUN AWAY BEFORE IT CAME TO THIS...
...BUT I CAME ANYWAY... BECAUSE OF MOMOKO.
BUT I DON'T CARE ANY-MORE.


I'M SURE SHE'S SICK OF ME.
SHE HATES ME.
PLUS...SHE BELONGS TO INUZUKA NOW.
NO MATTER WHAT I SAID...
...SHE WOULDN'T CONTRADICT ME.
I MEAN ... ...SHE'S OBVIOUSLY NOT GOING TO FALL IN LOVE WITH ME.
SO WHAT DOES IT MATTER?
RIGHT?
SHE WOULD CHEER ME UP.
BECKY?
....
....
YOU...

...YOU REALLY, TRULY ARE...
...THE MOST SELFISH MAN ALIVE.
!?
SO IF SHE WON'T LOVE YOU BACK... YOU DON'T CARE ANY-MORE?
YURA (SWISH)
HOW CAN YOU SAY YOU'RE THINK-ING OF MOMOKO-CHAN?
YOU'RE A CHILD...
A BABY.
YOU'RE TOO SELFISH TO LOVE ANOTHER PERSON.
WHAT!?
EVEN NOT YOU'RE YOU GOING TOO TO LECTURE ME NOW!?
MY DEAREST FRIEND?
.....?
NYOKI (SPROIT)
.....
WAIT...
THIS FIGHT ISN'T FOR YOUR SAKE.
IT'S FOR THE ONE YOU LOVE.
I'VE SEEN HER BEFORE ...
JI (ZZT)
JI
JI

.....
UH...
...YOU MEAN THAT SPECIAL MOVE?
.....
.....
...I COULDN'T DO THAT TO TENCHI.
BUT I...
...YOU KNOW WHAT YOU OUGHT TO DO, DEEP DOWN... DON'T YOU?
!
OR ARE YOU SAYING ...
.....
.....
...YOU DON'T WANT THE MEDICINE THAT WILL SAVE MOMOKO-CHAN'S LIFE?
SO...
NO!!
...IT'S OKAY IF SHE DIES?
...THAT IF MOMOKO-CHAN WON'T LOVE YOU BACK...

SHE'S ANOTHER MAN'S WOMAN.
ANOTHER MAN'S PROBLEM.
WHETHER SHE DIES ...
...OR DISAP-PEARS FROM YOUR LIFE...
...NONE OF IT REALLY MAT-TERS TO YOU, DOES IT?
.....!
NO! YOU'RE WRONG!
MOMOKO ISN'T MINE. THAT MUCH IS TRUE.
BUT...
... THAT DOESN'T ...
...CHANGE THE FACT...

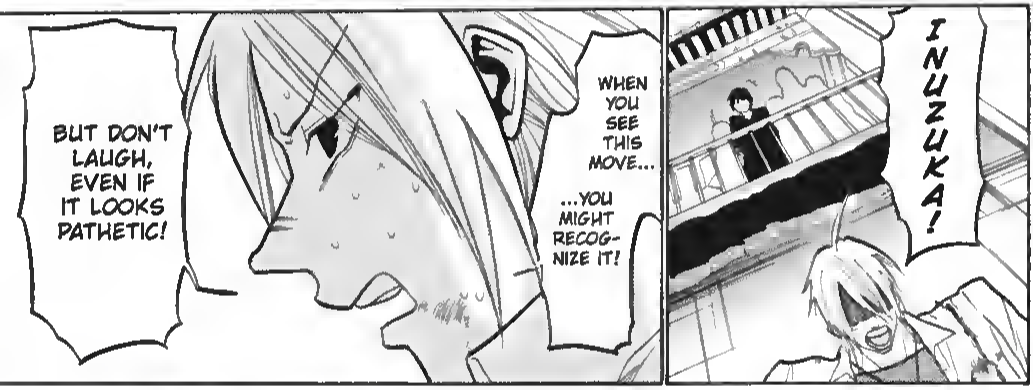


...THAT I STILL LOVE HER!
AAAAHHH...
AND I DON'T WANT TO SEE HER DIE!!
GU
GU (PRG)

DON (BOOM)
TENCHI!
I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS...
...BUT I SIMPLY CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE THIS FIGHT!!!

I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS.
I'VE GOT NO CHOICE ...
...BUT TO USE MY ULTIMATE ATTACK!!
KI (GLARE)

ざわっ
ZAWA (MURMUR)
ULTIMATE ATTACK!?
WHA ...?
YEAH, SURE.


BUT DON'T LAUGH, EVEN IF IT LOOKS PATHETIC!
WHEN YOU SEE THIS MOVE...
...YOU MIGHT RECOG-NIZE IT!
INUZUKA!

HE CAN'T POS-SIBLY MEAN ...
WAIT...
GO (GRRM)
GO GO GO ...
TAKE THIS, TENCHI!!
I KNOW WHAT IT IS?
YAAAY!
GET 'IM, TENKAI SHOW HIM UP!
YAAAY!

アアア
AAAAH!
HAAAAH...

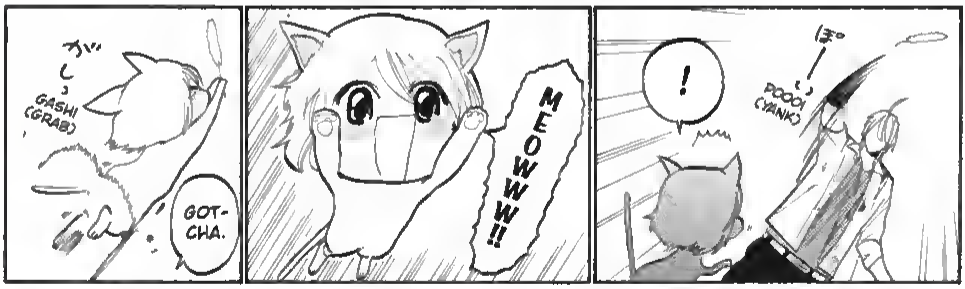
CATTAIL
(TYPHA LATIFOLIA)

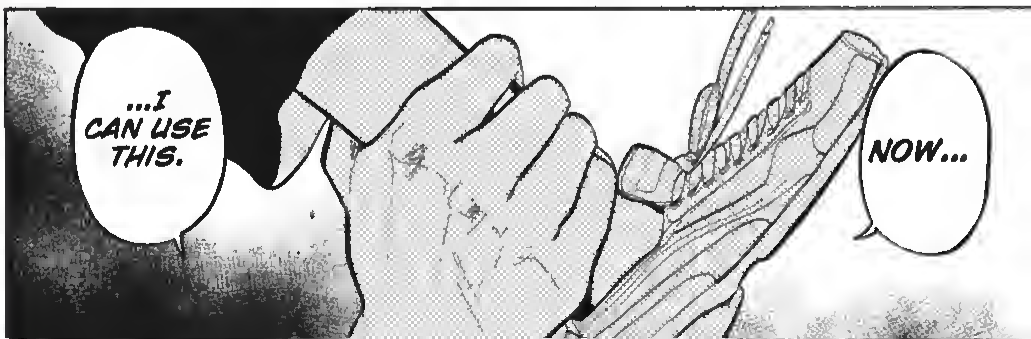
WHAAAAAA!?
WAIT!
THAT WAS MY IDEA!
I THOUGHT OF IT, YES...
A COMPLETE AND TOTAL MORON!
HE'S AN IDIOT!
.....
HA HA HA
BWA HA HA

I'M DISAPPOINTED OF YOU.
THIS IS PATHETIC.
C'MON. SERIOUSLY?
DON'T PULL ME DOWN TO YOUR LEVEL.
...BUT THAT COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE ANY EFFECT ON TENCHI... HE'S PRACTICALLY INVINCIBLE!
ARE...
ARE YOU CRACKED...?
...BUT I'VE ALSO BEEN BLESSED WITH THE MOST ABILITY AND POTENTIAL IN KOGANEI HISTORY.
I MAY HAVE BEEN GIVEN AN IDIOT FOR A BROTHER...
NYOKI (YDINK)
にょきっ
You'd have to be purrty stupid to think that would work.

IT'S WORK-ING !!!
BIKU (FLINCH)
ビクッ
!?

ALLOW ME TO EX-PLAIN!
...THE KOGANEI CLAN INHERITS ALL OF THE NATURAL WEAK-NESSES OF THE CAT FAMILY.
ALONG WITH THEIR INCREDIBLE STRENGTH, AGILITY, AND INSTINCT FOR BATTLE ...
にゃふっ NYAFU (SNORT)
NYAFU にゃふっ NYAFU にゃふっ
HOWEVER, AFTER KOUSHI DEFEATED HIM, TENKA LEARNED TO OVERCOME THESE.


!
ポコ (YANK)
MEOWW!!
がしっ GASHI (GRAB)
GOT-CHA.


NOW...
...I CAN USE THIS.

DON'T BE AN IDIOT!
YOU DON'T THINK ...
...I SPENT FIVE DAYS WORK-ING...
...ON AN ULTIMATE ATTACK LIKE THAT, DO YOU!?
!!
DON (FWOOM)
WHAAAT!?
GUWAA (ZWOOSH)
...RETTE-TSU-RYUU...
SHINDARA...
KA (FLASH)
...SECRET ART!!!

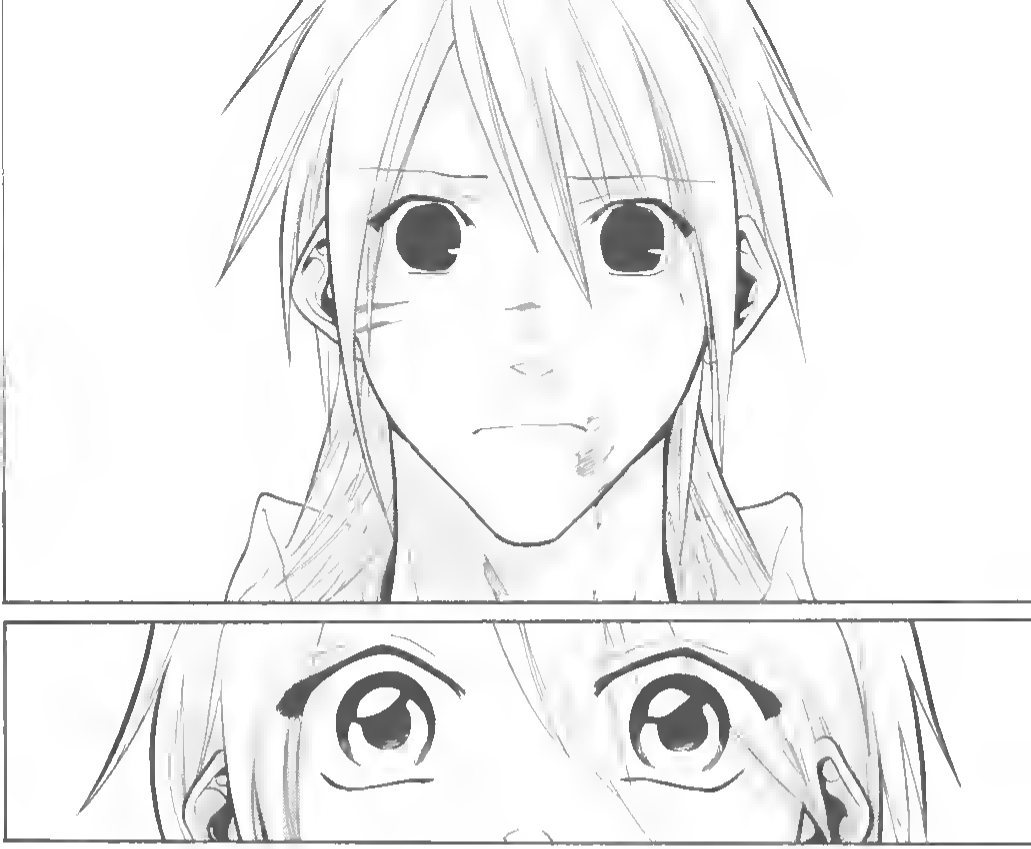
CHAPTER 31. GLADIATORIAL SOCCER (2) – END

32. GLADIATORIAL SOCCER (3)

And the winning shot is scored by none other than...
Goooal!
SHUUUU (FSHHHH)
ウウウ・・・

This is Tenka we're talking about! The worst talent the family has ever produced!
The ultimate David vs. Goliath!
... appalling!
It's simply... simply...
TEE HEE ♥
GARURU (GRRR)
...Tenka Koganei!
.....!
WAAA (RAHHH)

KOFF!
THAT WAS A FLUKE...
YORO (LURCH)
!
...
TEN-CHI!
GI (GLARE)
...BEAT ME...IN A FAIR FIGHT.
YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY...
...THAT HE COULD NEVER LOOK ME STRAIGHT IN THE EYE!!
...WHO WAS SO AFRAID OF ME...
THAT STUPID UNCOMFORTABLE SMILE
NOT TO A GUY...
YOUR LEGS ARE TREMBLING
NOT TO A GUY...
THAT'S JUST HOW HE'S LIKE



I'M SORRY.
FOR EVERY-THING.

.....
!
IF THAT'S THE BEST YOU CAN DO...
...THEN I CAN'T THINK OF YOU AS AN OLDER BROTHER.
ESPECIALLY NOT IF YOU FEEL SATISFIED...
...AT BEATING YOUR LITTLE BROTHER.

I THOUGHT THIS WAS ALL SETTLED.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
ZORO (STROLL)
ZORO
ZORO
.....
THE KOGANEI CLAN BELIEVES THAT MIGHT MAKES RIGHT.
BISHI (SNAP)
SOME-DAY...
A-AND TENGA!!
I-I'LL BEAT DAD TOO!

THIS IS MY FAULT FOR BEING LAZY AND SOFT.
...AND I RAN AWAY FROM DAN-GER.
I WAS WEAK ...
I EARNED THIS TREAT-MENT.

.....
THAT'S GOTTA BE TOUGH.
.....
THAT IS YOUR LOT IN LIFE AS MY SON!
BE VIGI-LANT!

I'VE GOT TO BUILD UP SOME MOMENTUM, LEARN MORE SECRET ARTS...
...AND BECOME A STRONGER MAN!
YOU CAN'T CHANGE THE FAMILY YOU WERE BORN INTO!
BUT I HAVE TO SUCK IT UP!
GU (CLENCH)
Team Inuzuka gets the first antidote compound!
OHHH!
The first match is over!
PIPI!! (FWEEET)
12

WELL DONE!

IT'S EASY TO TALK ABOUT BEING STRONGER ...
WELL, DAMN...

THE STOOGES OF THE MAIN FAMILY LINE.
THIS IS A FARCE.
.....
I CAN'T EVEN BEAR TO WATCH IT.
GACHA (CLACK)
GACHA
...BUT HOW DO YOU DO IT?
.....
.....
GU (GRIP)

I WONDER...
GACHA
GACHA
GACHA
GACHA
...WHO THEY GOT IT FROM?

SOUTEN KOGANEI?
ZA (SWOOSH)
ZA
THE FORMER HEAD...
...OF KOGANEI.
YES, I'M AWARE.
I'D HEARD THAT HE LEFT THINGS TO HIS SON...
...AND RETIRED INTO SECLUSION.

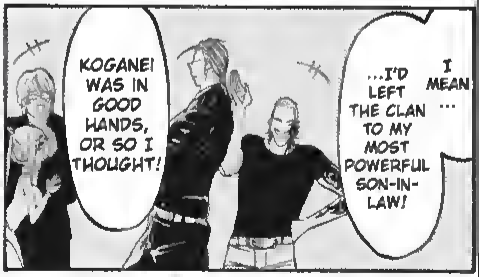
AT THIS TIME, UNKEN INUZUKA AND SENDAYUU KUZURYUU ...
BUT WHAT ABOUT HIM?
...WERE HEADING TO A SPECIAL LOCATION ...
...LED BY KIMIE NAKAJIMA.
ZA
W-
WAIT...
ZEEE
ZEEE (WHEEZE)
HUH?

MIKIHISA ENDOU
EASTERN ARMY, ANTERA SENPEN-RYUU, LEADER OF THE ENDOU CLAN, POLITICIAN
YOU INDOOR MONKEY!!
YOU HAVEN'T THE GUTS!
YOU HAVEN'T THE MUSCLE.
YOU NAVEN'T THE DISCI-PLINE
SFX: BI (JAB)
YOU KNEW ONE ANOTHER WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG?
YEAH!
HOW NICE.
YKNOW?
WHEN WE WERE YOUNG, WE WERE MUCH MORE...
YOU THREE ...
...ARE MUCH TOO FAST FOR ME!
HAAAA (HUFF)
...AND MY MOMO-KO... LINKEN'S KOUSHI ...
BUT THERE IS NAUGHT TO FEAR
LIKE WHO?
...TIME HAS TAKEN ITS CRUEL TOLL ON SOME OF US.
before
after
OF COURSE ...
...ARE NOW MAN AND WIFE.
GIKU (JERK)
THE TWO GREATEST MARTIAL ARTISTS IN THE WORLD...

SHIIIN (SILENCE)
AND THEY'LL BE STEPPING FORWARD ...
...TO LEAD THE TWELVE HEAVENLY GENERALS WITH STYLE!
SPEAKING OF WHICH, I HAVEN'T SEEN KOUSHI IN A WHILE.
I'D LIKE TO SPAR WITH HIM SOME-DAY!
HA HA HA!
RATHER THAN BLAME YOUR SON'S CURRENT STATE...
...I SUGGEST YOU BLAME THE WAY YOU RAISED HIM.
BOSO (MUTTER)
....
ZA ZA ZA ZA (ZSH)
AH! LOOK, WE'RE HERE!
... ACCORDING TO MY INFORMA-TION... THIS IS WHERE ...
...WE SHOULD FIND...
...SOUTEN KOGANEI.
!?
S—

SOUTEN!?
THOSE INJURIES!
TCH!
IT'S YOU PEOPLE...

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT TOO!
I THOUGHT YOU HAD RETIRED TO YOUR VILLAGE.
WHY ARE YOU HERE?


KOGANEI WAS IN GOOD HANDS, OR SO I THOUGHT!
...I'D LEFT THE CLAN TO MY MOST POWERFUL SON-IN-LAW!
I MEAN...

...ON THE NIGHT THAT I CELEBRATED THE OCCASION...
BUT THEN...

DON'T TOUCH ME!
I CAN STAND ON MY OWN!
YORO (WOBBLE)
SOUTEN KOGANEI
WESTERN ARMY, SHINDARA RETTETSU-RYUU, FORMER HEAD OF THE KOGANEI CLAN, TENKA AND TENCHI'S FATHER

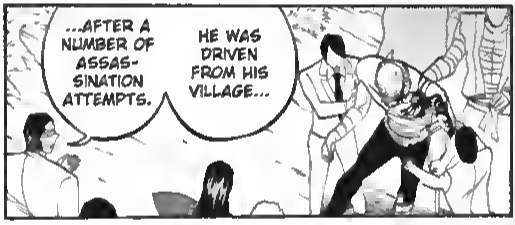
...I WAS NEARLY KILLED BY MYSTERIOUS ATTACKERS...

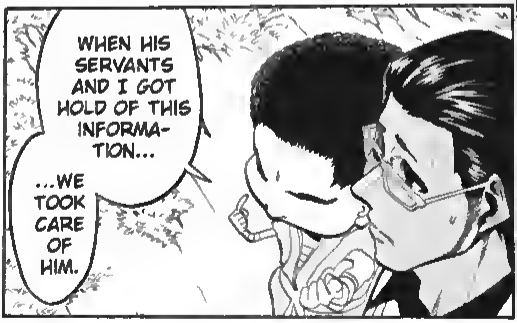
SHIIN (SILENCE)

BY WHOM?
I DON'T KNOW.

I KNOW THAT.
R-
REALLY! I DON'T!

YOU ARE NOT A MAN...
...CAPABLE OF LYING TO THE LIKES OF US WITH A STRAIGHT FACE.
BOOM BOOM


HE WAS DRIVEN FROM HIS VILLAGE...
...AFTER A NUMBER OF ASSAS-SINATION ATTEMPTS.


WHEN HIS SERVANTS AND I GOT HOLD OF THIS INFORMA-TION...
...WE TOOK CARE OF HIM.

GU (URK)
.....!!

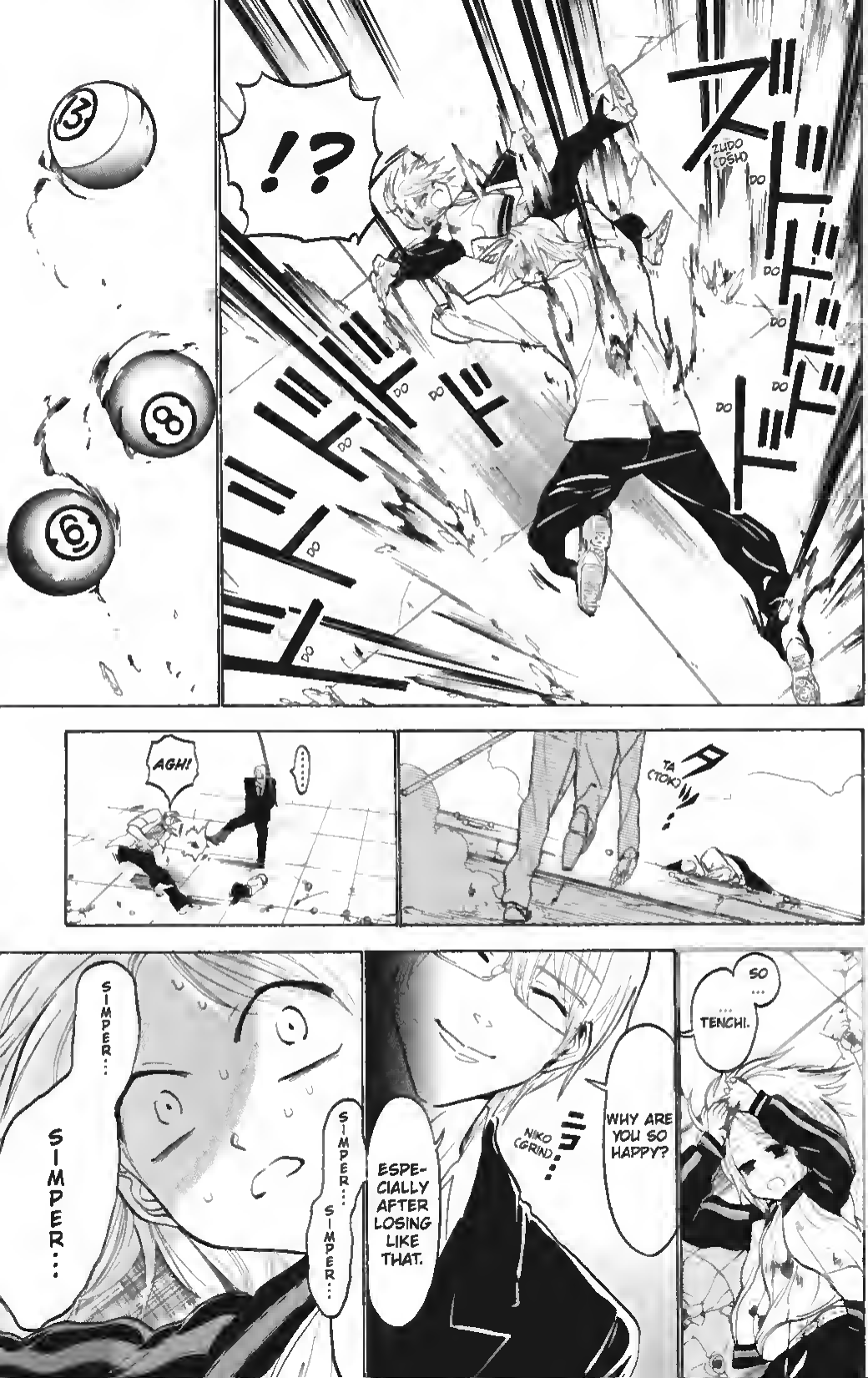
BUT WHAT COULD THIS BE?
.....

BY WHOM?
AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE ...?
.....
IRA
イラ
IRA (IRAK)
イラ
IRA
イラ

...with the first antidote compound.
PAAN
PAAN
PAKA
And here comes Tenchi, to present Tenka...
PAAN (HONK)
PAAN
PAKA
...have now...
...the two brothers...
After a long period of mistrust and neglect...
Watch closely!
.....
Really makes a tear come to your eye!
How mouving!!
A display of sibling love!
SFX: GISHI (CRKK)
THE USELESS LITTLE BRAT...
BOSO (MUTTER)
(WHEEZE! SNORT!
HA HA HA HA!
HA HA HA HA!
Just kidding! Bwaha-ha-ha!
AH HA HA HA HA!
HEE HEE!
WHOA!
Congratulations!
...once again!
...seen eye-to-eye...

AH
HA
HA
HA...
AH
HA
HA
HA...
AH
HA
HA
HA...
AH
HA
HA
HA...
AH
HA
HA
HA...

ZUDON
(KABOOM)
TEN—
!!


!?
ZUDO (DSHO)
DO
AGH!
TA (TOK)
SO...
...TENCHI.
WHY ARE YOU SO HAPPY?
NIKO (GRIN)
ESPECIALLY AFTER LOSING LIKE THAT.
SIMPER...
SIMPER...
SIMPER...
SIMPER...

SFX: TSUN (POKE) TSUN

KI (GLARE)
キッ
ZOKU
SHIVER
HIKU (TWITCH)
GUWAAA (HRRGH)
...CANNOT STAND THIS CRAP!!
SUUU (SSK)
...I SERIOUSLY ...
I'M SORRY, BUT ...
HEY!
STOP!
NO, TENREI!
ACK!

GO (SLAM)
!!
TENKAAA!!
GUSA (SHAK)

グッサリ
GUSSARI (FSHHH)
?
WHAT THE—!?

HIHIIIIN
GYAN (RAWR)
GYAN
HIHIIIIN (NEIIIGH)
!?
WH-WHAT'S THAT?
MUKU (TWITCH)
HIHIIIIN
YER FINALLY HERE!
YES...
HIHIIIIN
MUKU (LOOOOM)
MUKU
MUKU
MUKU
MUKU
HIHIIIIN
WHO ARE YOU !?
WHO... WHO...
HIHIIIIN
HIHIIIIN

GO (RUMBLE)
I AM THE HUNTER...
...WHO BRINGS DOWN...
...THE WICKED, MAD TIGER.
ARE YOU ONE OF KOUSHI INUZUKA'S FRIENDS?
WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT MEAN? WHO ARE YOU!?

CHAPTER 32. GLADIATORIAL SOCCER (3) – END

KOUSHI-DONO WAS POISONED AND HAS ONE WEEK LEFT TO LIVE...
BUT I NEVER GUESSED IT WOULD COME TO THIS.
...I BEGAN A FIERCE TRAINING REGIMEN SO THAT I COULD SAVE HIS LIFE.
EVER SINCE THE ASSASSINS STARTED ATTACKING INUZUKA-KUN...
...TO STAND...
HYUUU (WHOOOSH)
...FOR THE ONE I LOVE...
I CHOSE...
WHAT WILL YOU DO?
GOOOO (WHOO)
WHO'S THAT!?
WHA...
...AND FIGHT!!

HEAVENLY WARRIOR...
...HORSE MASK!!
33. THE HEAVENLY WARRIOR RETURNS!!

HORSE MASK!?
H-
UH, OKAY...
BUT... WHO ARE YOU?
I'M HERE TO HELP YOU.
スタッ
SUTA (THUMP)
YOU FOUGHT WELL.
LEAVE THE REST...
...UP TO ME.
フワッ
FUWA? (SWISH)
HUH!?
.....

...THAT CHICK WHO'S IN LOVE WITH INUZUKA !!
I TH-THINK SHE MUST BE...
..WHO RESCUED ME BE-FORE?
IS SHE THE ONE ...
!?
YOU'RE THAT GIRL! FROM SCHOOL!
HEY, I KNOW YOU...
BYU (ZWOOSH)
HOW DOES HE NOT RECOGNIZE HER?
BUT WHO COULD SHE BE?
HIS PRECONCEPTION IS TOO DIFFERENT.
INUZUKA-KUN!
NORMAL
ORO
ORO (SWIVEL)

!!
D-DON'T GET IN MY WAY...
メリッ……
MERI (CREKK)
DOSU (SLAM)
…YOU FOUL, CONNIV-ING...
IRA
…BITCH!!
IRA (TIRK)
GIRO (GLARE)
PLEASE...
MUGU (SMUSH)
むぐっ
…MPH!
HEY! ARE YOU—
UM...

DON'T TELL ANYONE IF YOU'VE FIGURED IT OUT...
IT'S A SECRET...
...ESPECIALLY FROM INUZUKA-KUN.
...!?
BE-CAUSE!
IT'S A LAW!
BUT WHY?
HUH ...?
ばっ
BA (WHOOSH)

GASH!!
(GSHAKK)
YOU BITCH!!
YOU'RE GONNA HAFTA DIE!!
AND WHO'S GOING TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN? YOU!?
.....
...WHO POISONED INUZUKA-KUN, AREN'T YOU?
KOOOO
(WHOOO)
...
ARE THE ONES
YOU PEOPLE
...
BA
(ZIP)

...AND TAKE THE ANTI-DOTE BY FORCE!!
KI (GLARE)
I WILL CRUSH YOU...

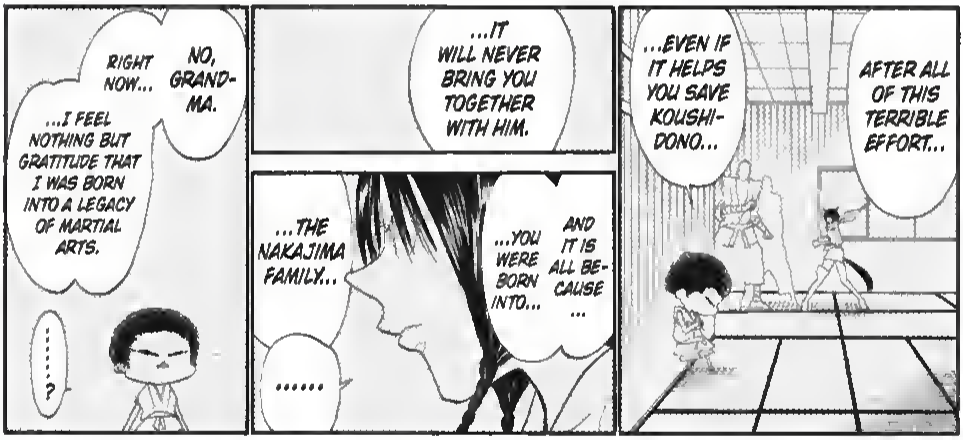
AAAAAHHHH
BA (POW)
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA
Begin the second match now! ☆
GU (SHIFF)
AH!
IT SEEMS A NEW BATTLE HAS BEGUN!
ACTU-ALLY ...
...A TENRE! VS. IROHA-CHAN "SLIPPERY-SLIMY SUMO MATCH"...
...WAS THE ORIGINAL PLAN...
PLAN
EW! IT'S SO GROSS! STOP IT!
SFX: NURU (SLIME) NURU NURU
Change of plans!
...but this will have to do.

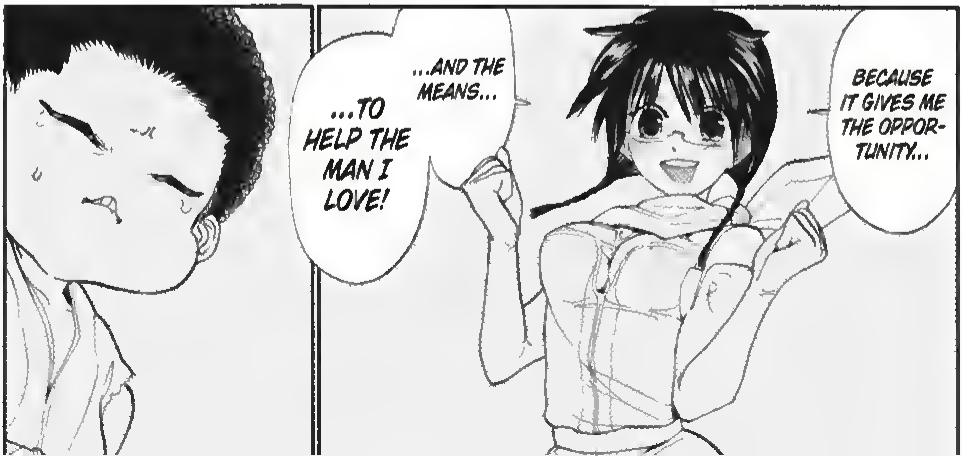
KA
KA
KA
KA
KA
KA
SUKA (TAK)
!!
PITA (STOP)
DARA (DA)
RA
RA
RA
RA
TOOON (BOING)
...DIRTY BITCH!!!
YOU STUPID ...
BA (MMF)
9
3
SA (SHHK)
1
2
MORON!!
HEH!

...IN MIDAIR!!
YOU'RE COMPLETELY HELPLESS...
GIRA (GLING)
FUAA (FWOOSH)
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO (DOON)
DAN (KICK)

A SUPER-SPEED KICK AGAINST THE ATMOSPHERE... THE SECRET ART, WILLPOWER FLIGHT LEG!
THANK YOU, GRAND-MA...
THIS NEW SUIT IS THE BEST!
FUUUUU (FWOOOSH)
...THE AIR!!
SHE KICKED ...
...THE ...!?
WHAT...
!?

I AM SORRY FOR PUTTING YOU THROUGH SO MUCH PAIN, SANAE...
.....
THE ABILITY ...
...TO MANIP-ULATE AIR!
IT MUST BE THE PRODUCT OF FIERCE TRAINING!


NO, GRAND-MA.
RIGHT NOW...
...I FEEL NOTHING BUT GRATITUDE THAT I WAS BORN INTO A LEGACY OF MARTIAL ARTS.
.....?
...IT WILL NEVER BRING YOU TOGETHER WITH HIM.
...THE NAKAJIMA FAMILY...
.....
...YOU WERE BORN INTO...
AND IT IS ALL BE-CAUSE ...
...EVEN IF IT HELPS YOU SAVE KOUSHI-DONO...
AFTER ALL OF THIS TERRIBLE EFFORT...


...TO HELP THE MAN I LOVE!
...AND THE MEANS...
BECAUSE IT GIVES ME THE OPPOR-TUNITY...

EVEN IF...
...IS NOT AT YOUR SIDE...
...MY PLACE...

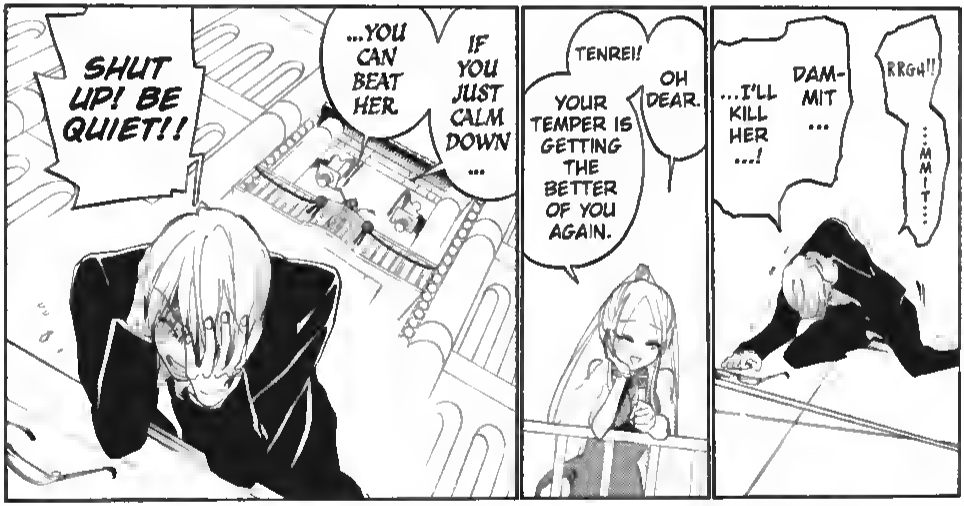
...IT DOESN'T CHANGE ...
DAN (WHAM)
...THE FACT OF MY LOVE!!
DA (DASH)

I WILL PROTECT YOU!!
...I SULKED AND WHINED...
WHEN I SAW THEM TOGETHER ...
OHH!!
SHE DIDN'T HESITATE TO FIGHT.
SHE DIDN'T BACK DOWN.
SHE DIDN'T WAVER.
...BUT SHE SMILED.

SECRET ART!!!
KA (FLASH)
GOOOOOO!!
ガタタ!!
GATATA (THUMP)
AAAA

WILL-
POWER
DRILL-
ING
LEG
!!!!
GA
(CRAKK)

THAT WAS EASY!
SURE WAS!
.....
UGH!!!


SHUT UP! BE QUIET!!
...YOU CAN BEAT HER.
IF YOU JUST CALM DOWN...
TENREI!
YOUR TEMPER IS GETTING THE BETTER OF YOU AGAIN.
OH DEAR.
...I'LL KILL HER...!
DAM-MIT...
RRGH!!
...MMIT...

!!
HA (GASP)

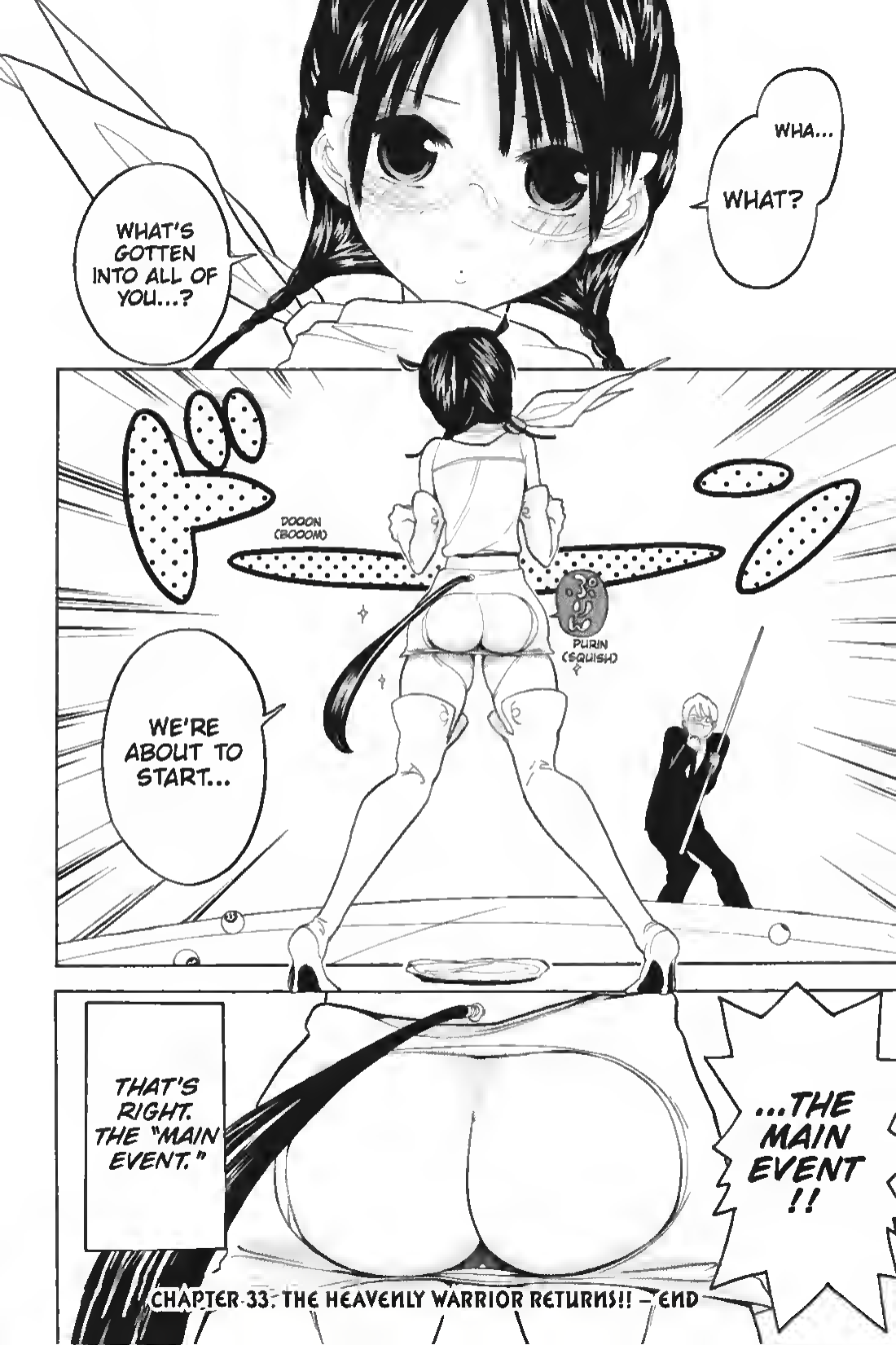
I...
I'M SORRY, ANEKI!
IT'S FINE. ♡
BUT YOU NEED TO WORK HARDER. ♡
HE'S BACK ON HIS FEET!?
WHEN YOU TRY HARD...
...YOU CAN ACHIEVE GREAT THINGS...
YURAA (FWOOM)
I CAN SEE YOU'RE TOUGH.
BUT THIS ATTACK ...
...WILL END IT!!
GUWA (FWOOSH)

!?
ガン
(THUD)
HOW DID THAT COME FROM BEHIND?
!?
I NEARLY FORGOT...
シュウウ…
(HISSS)

I'M...
...A HUSTLER.
DO (DMMD
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
OH NO !!
HE'S STRIK-ING...
...THE BALLS ON THE GROUND !?
!!
DON (BOOM)

...WHILE HE WAS BESIDE HIMSELF WITH RAGE.
SHE SHOULD HAVE FINISHED HIM OFF...
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU (LOOM)
ZU
...TENREI HAS THE UPPER HAND!!
WHEN IT COMES TO BATTLE AURA...
ZU
ZU
ZU
RRGH!
ZU
THAT IS, ASSUMING YOU CAN TELL...
...WHICH ONE'S GOING TO HIT YOU NEXT!!
GET A LOAD OF MY TRICK SHOTS!

AAAAH!!
BA (BAM)
BA
SECRET ART! CANNON-SHOT CYCLONE !!
!!
GAN (WHACK)
KI (GLARE)
...BUT I'M NOT DOWN FOR THE COUNT YET!
OUCH ...!
OKAY, THAT ONE HURT...
.....?



CHAPTER 33: THE HEAVENLY WARRIOR RETURNS!! – END

IT'S TIME FOR THE MAIN EVENT!!!
DON (BOOM)
I HOPE YOU'RE READY FOR THIS!
TENREI KOGA-NEI!
THE MAIN EVENT!
.....?
← RE-TRY
SU (SWISH)
SU (POINT)
.....?
WH-WHAT?
.....
CHIRA (PEEK)
SOOOO (SLOW)
SUU

34. YOUNG GIRL, AWAKEN THE HOLY BEAST

AAAH!!
IKUUU (FLINCH)
PAPA (SWISH)
ぱぱっ
OH...
WATATATA (PANIC)
わたたた
.....
BFFF!!
BU (SPLOOT)
ブゥ
ブゥ
PFFT!!
.....
NOOOOO!!
EEEEEEE HEE HEE HEE
DO (BAM)
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
GYA× HA× HA× HA× HA× HA!!×

B-BUT... YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DID THIS!
HA-HA-HA-HA! THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO KNOW!
HOW COULD YOU DO SUCH A THING!?
HEE-HEE-HEE!
GYA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
WH-WHYYY!
HA HA HA HA HA!
Her... her butt is hanging out!
WHY IS THIS HAPPEN-ING!?
HA HA
STOP LAUGH-ING!!
STOP ...
HA HA HA
GET BACK ON YOUR
SO ...
UMM ...
HA
YOU ARE ...
YOU... YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR THIS...
HA HA
BEING STRUCK BY A BILLIARD BALL...
...WOULDN'T CAUSE IT TO FALL APART THIS WAY!
HOW DID IT RIP OFF SO CLEANLY!?
HUH !?
BUT HOW??

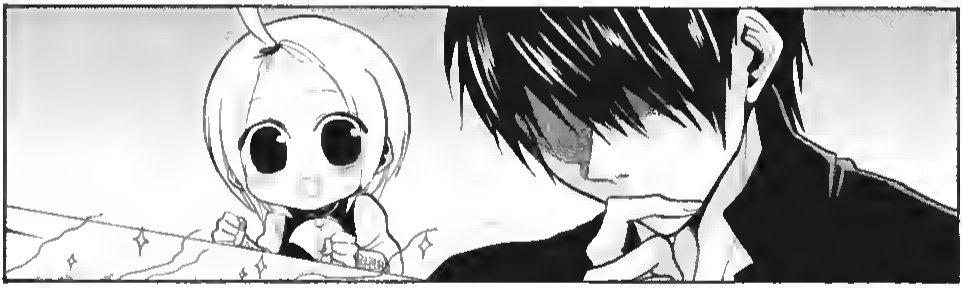
AHH...
THE LEGEND-ARY SUIT...
I HAVE FITTED MY GRAND-DAUGHTER WITH IT...
...AND SENT HER TO PROVIDE AID TO KOUSHI-DONO.
THE SHINGO WILLPOWER PEGASUS RAIMENT.
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THIS STUPID SUIT!?
NOT ONLY THAT...
...I ALSO GAVE IT A FEW TWEAKS HERE AND THERE.
SANAE HARBORS GREAT POTENTIAL FOR MARTIAL ARTS...
...BUT SHE DOES NOT CALL UPON IT.
NAY, SHE MERELY RELIES ON THE SUIT...
...BUT THAT WILL NOT GET THE JOB DONE!!
SHE NEEDS TO STRIKE A BETTER BALANCE!!
WAHHH!
HA HA HA HA HA
THEREFORE, I HAVE ELECTED...
HYA-HYA-HYA!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
WAHHHHH!
.....!!
GAKU GAKU (SHIVER)
GAKU!
HA HA HA HA HA
GERA GERA (CHUCKLE)
...TO PUT HER TO THE TEST...

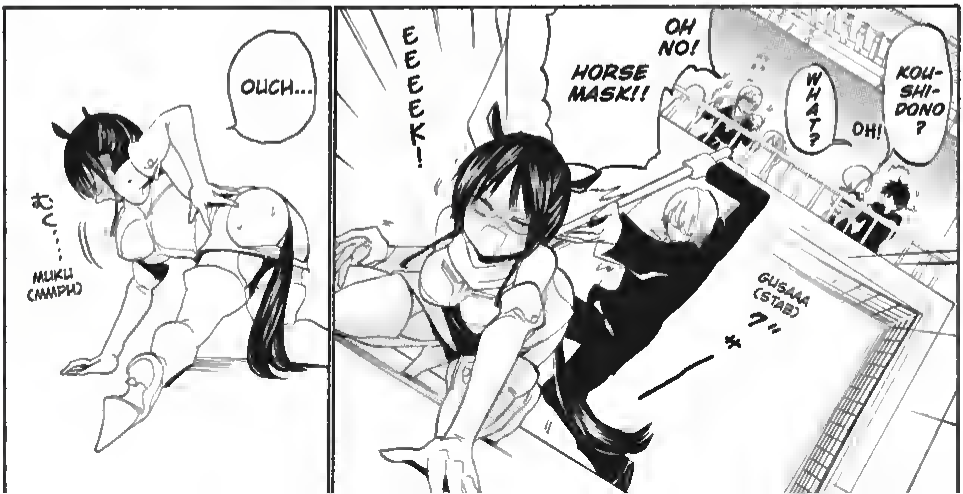
YOU HAVE TO GRIN AND BEAR IT, SANAE!!
GAKU
GAKU (SHIVER)
KYUUU (SQUEEEZE)
THIS IS...SO... MORTIFY-ING...
KAAAA (BLUSH)
MOJI
MOJI (FIDGET)
SU (SSK)
IF THAT'S THE CASE...
HAVE YOU ALREADY LOST...
...THE WILL TO FIGHT?
OH DEAR, DEAR, DEAR.
THINGS WERE GOING SO WELL UNTIL THIS POINT.
BURU
BURU (SHIVER)

...ARE DONE FOR.
...THEN YOU...
GIRA (GLARE)
Tenrei's in his dead-serious mode... Will he deliver the merciless finishing blow!?
Horse Mask is in a dreadful bind!!
GAKU
GAKU
GAKU (SHIVER)

...BUT HER LEGS ARE SHAKING SO HARD...
NOT ONLY DOES THE ENEMY HAVE HER ON THE ROPES...
THIS DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.
.....

WHAT CAN WE DO...?
KOUSHI-DONO!
...SHE COULDN'T EVEN ESCAPE IF SHE TRIED!!




OUCH...
むくっ…
MUKU (MMPH)
EEEEK!
OH NO!
HORSE MASK!!
WHAT?
OH!
KOU-SHI-DONO?
GUSAA (STAB)

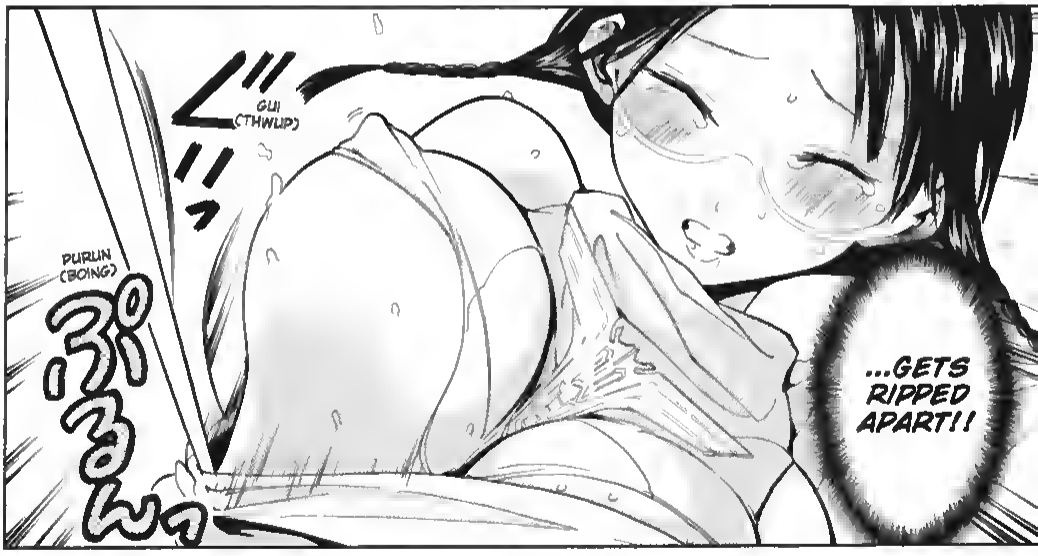
PEROOOO (PEEL)
ペロ〜ッ

WH-WHAT'S GOING ON!?
EVERY SPOT ON MY SUIT HE ATTACKS...
HUH!?
HA-HA-HA...
WHAT'S THIS?
OOH!

TSUN (POKE)
GUIN (GRIND)

AH...

!!
ZURURUU (SLOOOP)
だめぇ…


GUI (THWLIP)
PURUN (BOING)
ぷるんっ
...GETS RIPPED APART!!

!!
KAAAA (FLUSH)

WELL, WELL.

I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY-MORE...
IT'S SO... SO...
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
NOOOOO!
...HUMILI-ATING!!
キュイイーン
KYUIIIN (WHIRRRR)
ピカ
PIKA (FLASH)
Oh dear! Horse Mask is in major trouble!
WAIT...
.....?
ババッ
BABA (SWOOSH)

AH HA HA HA HA!
...she'll be completely naked by the time she's dead!
WAIT UP, YOU!
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
At the rate things are going...
Just look at those boobies a-shaking!
PIKA (FLASH)
THIS IS SO EMBAR-RASSING!
キュイ
KYUIIN (WHIRR)
PIKA
I'M SO ASHAMED!

KYUIIIN (WHIRRR)
WAIT UP, SWEETIE!
OH?
HEE-HEE
!
GYUN (GRRK)
DA (DASH)
LOST ALL SIGHT OF HIS ORIGINAL PURPOSE
!?
DA
DA

WHAT THE HELL ...?
..... ZEE (WHEEZE) ZEE
...OR IS SHE GETTING FASTER?
IS IT JUST ME...
STUPID... BITCH...
IRA IRA
IRA (TIRK)
MUKA (GRR)
Whatever could be the matter? Tenrei's unable to catch her!
!
GYA× HA× ×HA!
HYA× HA× HA× HA× HA× HA× HA× HA!
BIKU (FLINCH)
...IN THAT HUMILIATING OUTFIT!?
HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON RUNNING AROUND...
HEY!
WHY IS SHE SO IMPERTI-NENT!?

ORO
おろ
ORO (PANIC)
おろ
HOW WILL YOU MANAGE THAT?
.....!
もじ MOJI (FIDGET)
もじ MOJI
PITA (STOP)
ピタッ
I SEE...
.....
SO YOU WANT TO FIGHT ...
...AND COVER YOUR BODY AT THE SAME TIME?
スッ SU (SHFF)
SUTA (TMP)
SUTA
SFX: PA (SWISH)
ぱっ
OOPS. BACK TO RUN-NING?
WHY BOTHER?
YOUR EYES ARE CLEARLY SAYING YOU CAN'T FIGHT ANY LONGER...
.....
ガクガク
SFX: GAKU (SHIVER) GAKU
WHY NOT GIVE UP...
...AND SUBMIT TO MY WILL?

AAH...!
GA (GRAB)
I'VE GOT YOU NOW.
MMF...
GUI (TUG)
OH...
YOU'VE GOT TO ACQUIESCE TO THE GROUP'S DEMANDS.
SORRY.
FURU
N-NO!
FURU (SHAKE)

ALL THE MEN IN THE STANDS ...
...ARE STARING AT YOU WITH LUST IN THEIR EYES.
WH-WHAT...? NO...
DON'T DO IT, INUZUKA-KUN...
WAA
WAA (CRAIK)
WAA
.....
OH!!
NO, HE WOULD NEVER!!
IF ANYONE WOULD RESIST, IT WOULD BE INUZUKA-KUN!!
HE ISN'T A SEXUAL PERSON!
HE'S SERIOUS, HONEST, AND PURE!
HE'S NOT LOOKING... HE'S NOT LOOKING...
INU-ZUKA-KUN...
...WOULD NEVER LOOK AT MY—
ばっ
BA (SPIN)
HE'S TOO SHY AND RESERVED...
...TO STARE AT A GIRL'S BODY!

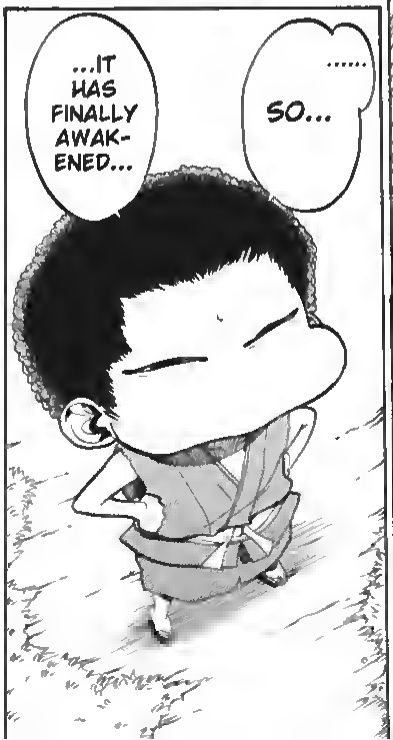
H-HE IS TOTALLY OGLING MY BODY !!!!
EEEEEEK!
AAAAAH!
ガク GAKU (SHIVER)
ガク GAKU
ガク GAKU
じ… JI (STARE)
RANGE WHICH KOUSHI'S MASCULINITY CANNOT IGNORE
(OUT OF RANGE)
BOING
FLAT

THIS...
...IS SO...
KAAAAA
KAAAAT (BLUSH)
...EMBARRASSING!!!
PIKO (BLINK)
PIKAAAAA (FLAAASH)

GYAA
GYAA
(CAWW)

!!
SZSZ

I BELIEVE THAT'S THE DIRECTION OF KOGANEI.
A HUGE AURA, AT A GREAT DISTANCE.
INDEED.
DID YOU FEEL IT, SENDAYUU?


...IT HAS FINALLY AWAKENED...
.....
SO...

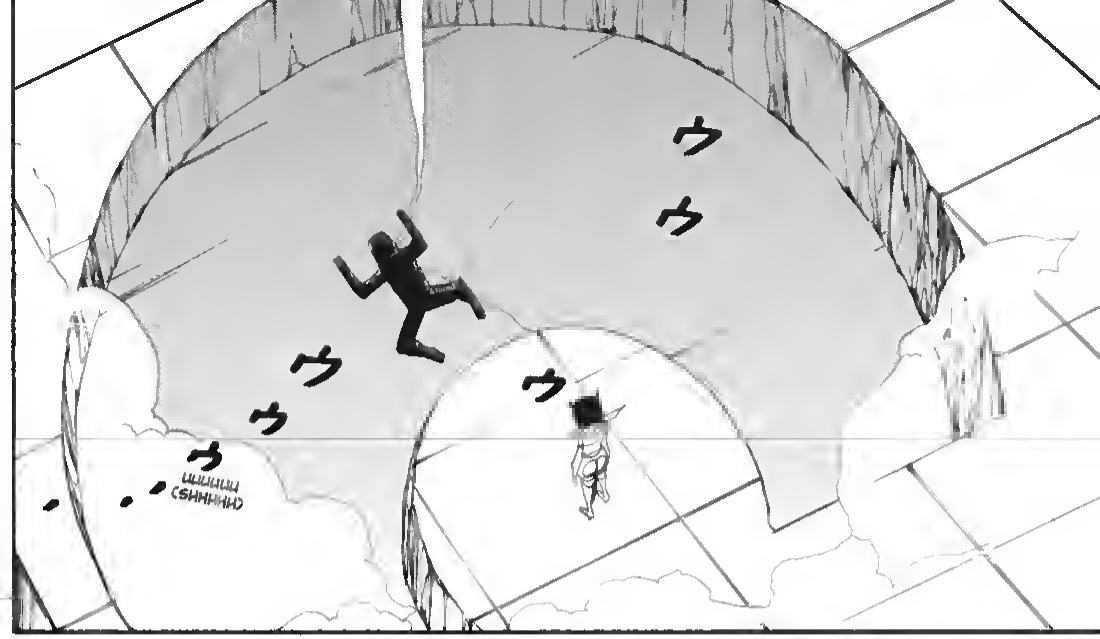
DOON
(BOOOM)

...
...WITHIN HER...
THE PEGASUS...
フワァァ...
FUWAAAA (FWOOSH)
ゴゴゴゴゴ
GO GO GO GO
ゴゴゴゴゴ
GO GO GO GO
GO (RUMBLE)
ヒン
ヒ
HIHIIN (NEEEEIGH)

...SOME FORM OF SUBCONCIOUS TALENT.
... HARBOR DEEP WITHIN THEM...
ALL HUMAN BEINGS ...
THE MARTIAL ARTS.
SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE.
SPORTING ABILITY.
IT VARIES FROM PERSON TO PERSON ..
...OR LOVE.
... SORROW ...
... ANGER ...
THE KEY TO UNLOCK THAT GREAT POWER CAN BE...
I SIMPLY CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE THIS FIGHT !!!
...THAT KEY IS SHAME!
...BUT IN SANAE'S CASE...

AND IT WAS A SMASHING SUCCESS!!
HEH× HEH HEH!
?
THEREFORE, THIS INCARNATION OF THE SUIT IS CONSTRUCTED ...
MANUAL
...TO FALL AWAY PIECE BY PIECE AS IT IS STRUCK...
...INCREASING HER SHAME WITH EACH BLOW...
HMM?
THIS'LL WORK BETTER IF I DON'T TELL HER ABOUT IT.
HAAAAAA (AAHHH)
BIKAAAA (FLOOOSH)
WHOA...
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO (RUMBLE)
AAAAHHH!!
AAAAHHH...

SANTERA SHINGO-RYUU ULTIMATE ART...
I FEEL SO HUMIL-IATED ...
ZUDDOON (ZAADOOOMM)
WILLPOWER PEGASUS CONVICTION HOOF!!
KAAA (FLUSH)
SHUUU (FSSS)
シュウウ...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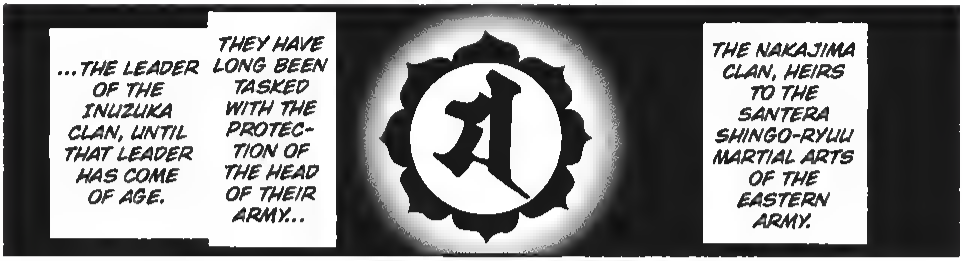
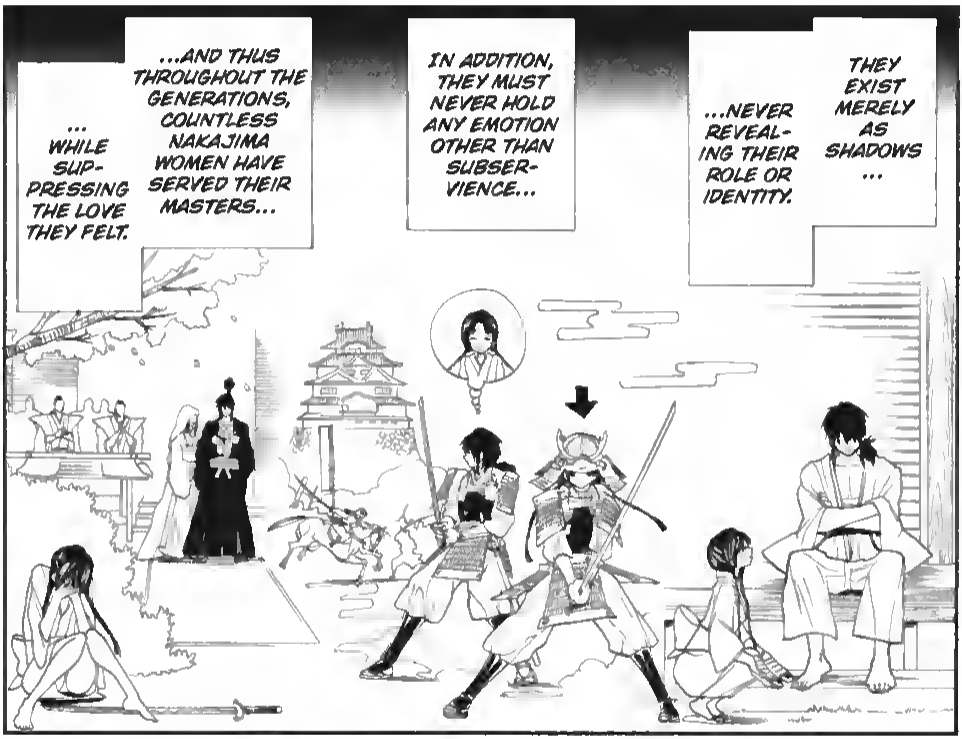
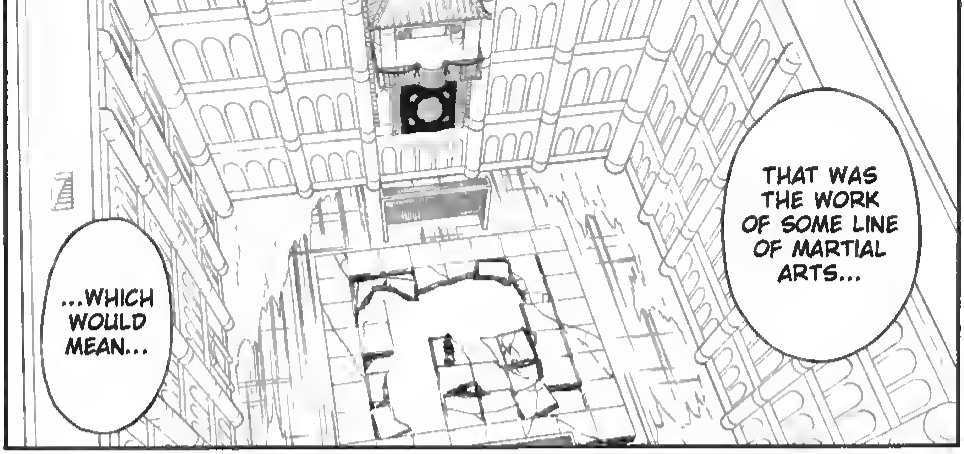

THE NAKAJIMA CLAN, HEIRS TO THE SANTERA SHINGO-RYUU MARTIAL ARTS OF THE EASTERN ARMY.
THEY HAVE LONG BEEN TASKED WITH THE PROTECTION OF THE HEAD OF THEIR ARMY..
...THE LEADER OF THE INUZUKA CLAN, UNTIL THAT LEADER HAS COME OF AGE.


THEY EXIST MERELY AS SHADOWS ...
...NEVER REVEALING THEIR ROLE OR IDENTITY.
IN ADDITION, THEY MUST NEVER HOLD ANY EMOTION OTHER THAN SUBSERVIENCE...
...AND THUS THROUGHOUT THE GENERATIONS, COUNTLESS NAKAJIMA WOMEN HAVE SERVED THEIR MASTERS...
... WHILE SUPPRESSING THE LOVE THEY FELT.

.....
...AS A WOMAN WHO LOVES A MAN.
...WAS YET AGAIN UNABLE TO SPEAK OPENLY TO HIM...
...THE WOMAN WHO PROTECTS KOUSHI INUZUKA'S LIFE...

TODAY...

35. TWO BLADES OF CONVICTION


...WHICH WOULD MEAN...
THAT WAS THE WORK OF SOME LINE OF MARTIAL ARTS...

!
KOUSHI INUZUKA-DONO!

...THAT SHE'S ANOTHER ...

BORO (DRIP)
...TODAY...
...I CAN DO FOR YOU...
I'M AFRAID THAT THIS IS ALL...

I AM A MARTIAL ARTIST.
I HAVE COME HERE ... TO PROTECT YOUR LIFE ... ...AS YOU ARE FATED TO LEAD US IN THE FUTURE.

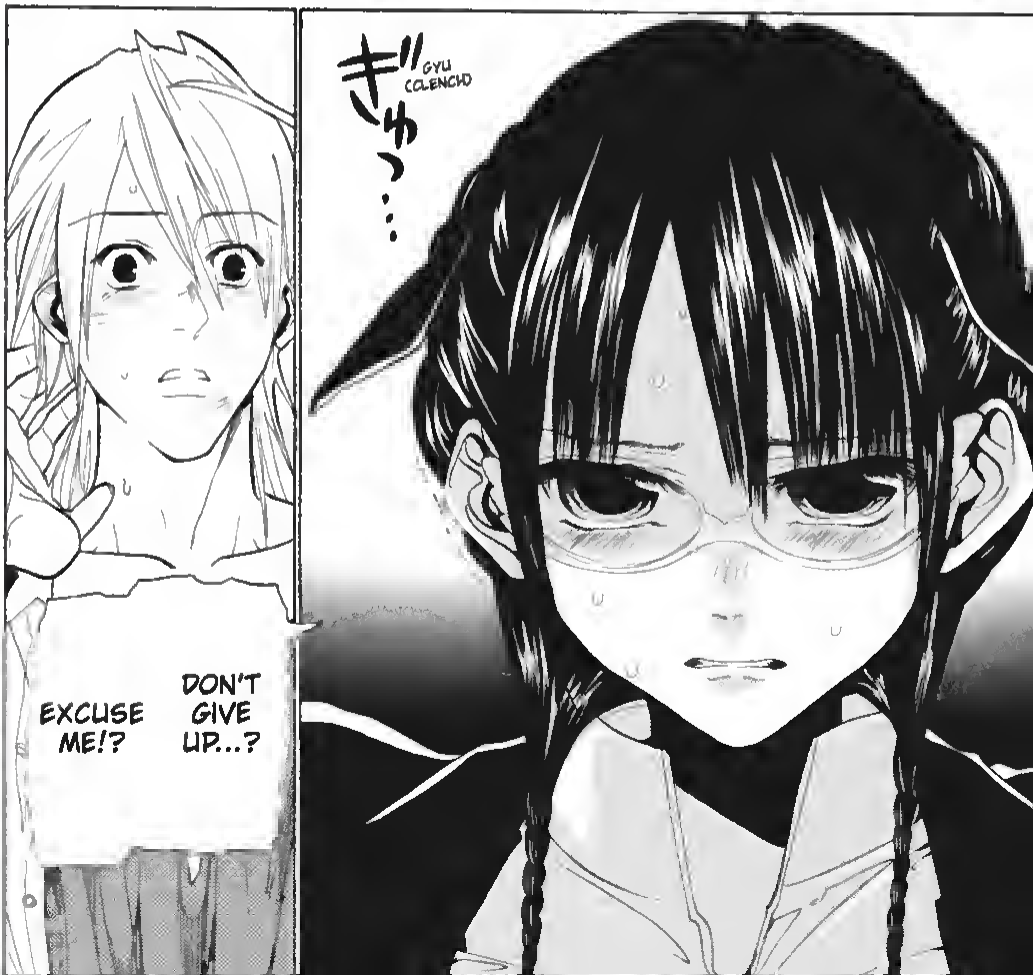
...STAY WELL...
...I HOPE...
...THAT YOU REMAIN SAFE...
HOW-EVER...
...AND TRIUMPH OVER YOUR CRUEL FATE...
...NOT GIVING IN...
...BUT FOLLOW-ING THE PATH YOU BELIEVE IN...
...NOT BETRAY-ING YOUR-SELF...
...WITH THE ONE YOU BELIEVE IN...
.....
...IN HAPPI-NESS...
.....

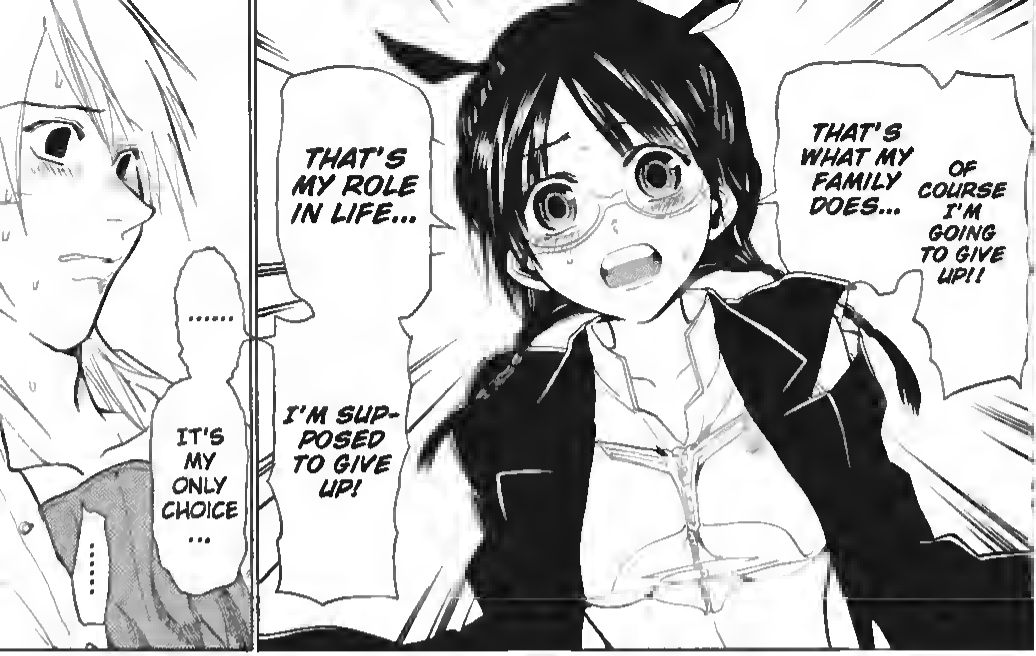
THAT YOU LIVE IN HAPPI-NESS.
THAT IS ALL I ASK.
スッ
SU (BOW)
...THE LIFE OF A MARTIAL ARTIST IS A SORROWFUL ONE.
FLYING DIRECTLY IN THE FACE OF ONE'S FATE AND DUTY...

BUT ALAS, IT MUST BE SO.
DO NOT LET HER DEDICATION GO TO WASTE...
.....
HEY!
.....?
ゼェ
ZEE
ゼェ
ZEE (WHEEZE)
!
IT'S YOU...
UH. YEAH.
WHAT IS IT?
.....
.....
ZEE
ゼェ
.....

...I SHOULD BE GOING.
WELL...
HEY...
OH. SURE ...
THANKS FOR SAVING MY BROTHER.
SO, UH...
.....
YEAH ...
...ALL RIGHT?
IS HE...
OKAY?
...DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD.
LIVE IN HAPPINESS WITH THE ONE YOU BELIEVE IN...
AND I'M SURE YOU HAVE CIRCUMSTANCES OF YOUR OWN...
...THEY'RE ENGAGED AND ALL.
INUZUKA AND HER ...
UHH...
I MEAN... YOU KNOW!
UH!

OKAY?
.....
...DON'T GIVE UP!
...BUT IF YOU STILL LOVE HIM...


EXCUSE ME!?
DON'T GIVE UP...?
GYU CLENCHD
キュッ…


THAT'S WHAT MY FAMILY DOES...
OF COURSE I'M GOING TO GIVE UP!!
THAT'S MY ROLE IN LIFE...
I'M SUPPOSED TO GIVE UP!
.....
IT'S MY ONLY CHOICE...
.....

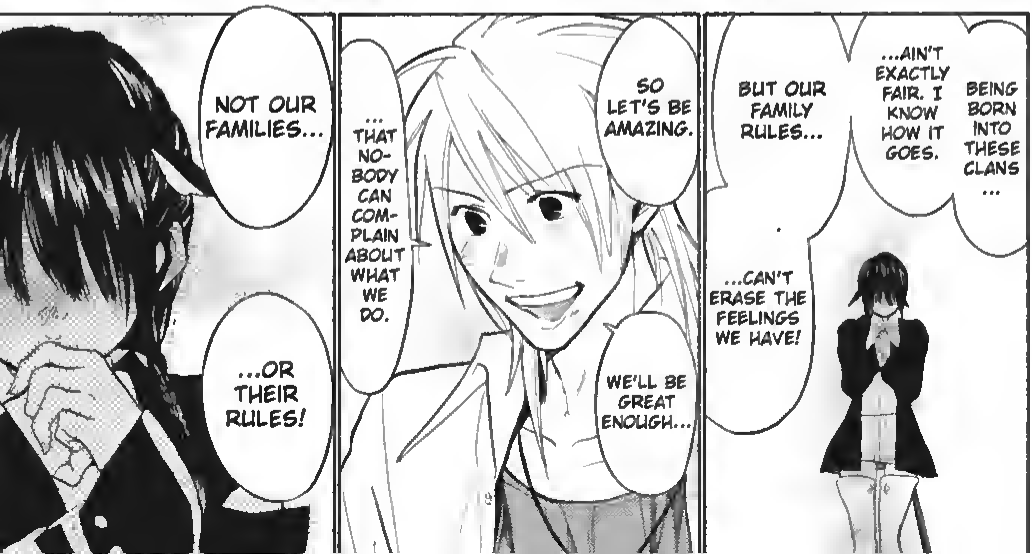
...AS LONG AS HE IS HAPPY...
AND I...
...KNOW THAT I CAN DO IT...

AS LONG AS HE IS HAPPY...
YEAH, BUT...

...YOU'D RATHER BE HAPPY WITH THE ONE YOU LOVE!
...IF YOU HAD THE CHOICE...
BA (SHUDDER)
ぱっ

DON'T YOU THINK SO!?
GU (SNIFF)
ISN'T THAT RIGHT!?
OH...!

I MEAN ...
...THEY AREN'T YOUR PROBLEM!
...THESE FAMILY TRADITIONS ...
RIGHT?
.....
...MOMOKO-CHAN...
HE MUST LOVE...


NOT OUR FAMILIES...
...OR THEIR RULES!
... THAT NOBODY CAN COMPLAIN ABOUT WHAT WE DO.
SO LET'S BE AMAZING.
WE'LL BE GREAT ENOUGH...
BUT OUR FAMILY RULES...
...AIN'T EXACTLY FAIR. I KNOW HOW IT GOES.
BEING BORN INTO THESE CLANS ...
...CAN'T ERASE THE FEELINGS WE HAVE!

ACK!
WE CAN HANG IN THERE—
ビクッ
BIKU (FLINCH)
お
3 ORO
お
3 ORO (PANIC)
HUH?
JUST ...
I DON'T WANT YOUR SYMPA-THY
SOOOO (SLOW)
UH...
OH? OKAY!
ビ"
BIKU?
...FOR A LITTLE WHILE...
JUST LET ME LEAN ON YOUR BACK...
TAAN
TAAN (TAP)
...

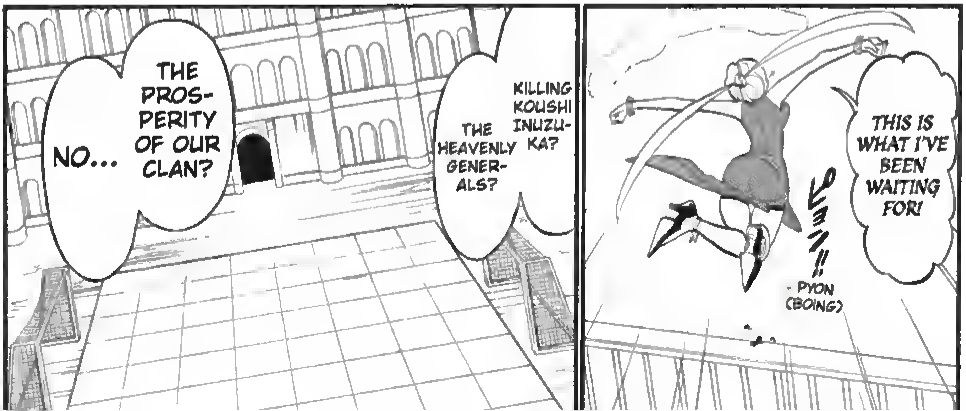
SOB!
HIC,
HIC...
...ANK
YOU...
SNFF
HMM?
WHAT
WAS
THAT?
?
.....
HIC!
NNGH!

JUST WHO IS THAT OLD MAN!?
THOSE WORDS WEIGH DEEPLY ON MY CONSCIENCE NOW...
I CAN'T GET THEM OUT OF MY HEAD.
.....
BUT, ALAS, IT MUST BE SO FOR A MARTIAL ARTIST.
FLYING DIRECTLY IN THE FACE OF ONE'S FATE AND DUTY...
JUST TWO ANTIDOTE COMPOUNDS REMAINING, KOUSHI-DONO.
YEAH. RIGHT.
HUFF!
HUFF!
HAFUU (HRRF)
HAFUU
KUNKA (SNUFFLE) KUNKA
I WILL FIGHT.
BUT WHAT'S NEXT?
GI
GI (CREAK)
WE MUST GET THE NEXT MATCH STARTED BEFORE THE SUN SETS...

DON (BOOM)
!!
IROHA-DONO!!
AND I WILL WIN!
...AS WELL AS...
FOR YOUR SAKE...
...THE SAKE OF MY CLAN...
...I REFUSE TO ALLOW ...
...THAT BITCH TO WIN!!
DO
DO (RMB)
SUU (SSK)

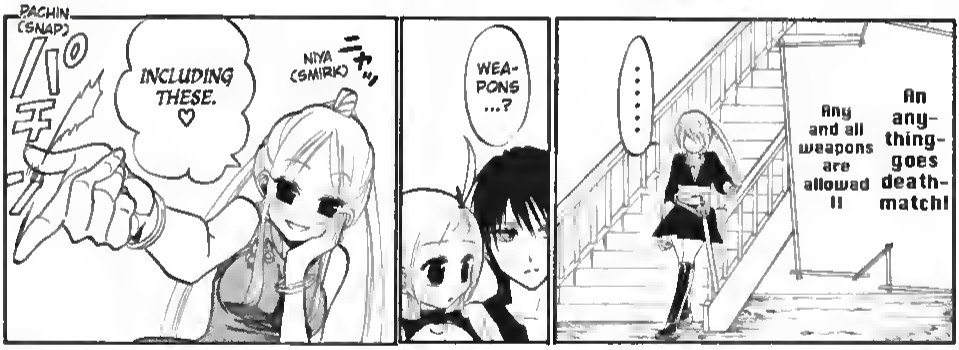
DON
(BOOM)

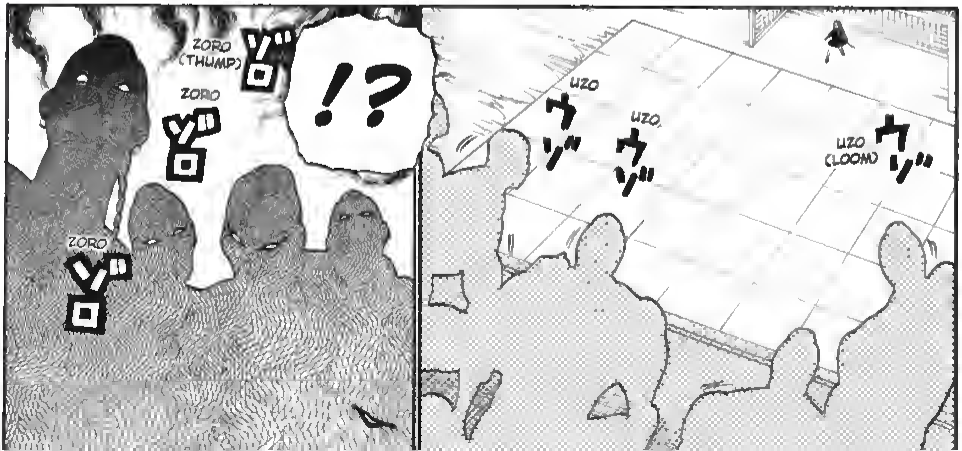
AHA!
♡
TENTEN KOGANEI !!!


KILLING KOUSHI INUZUKA?
THE HEAVENLY GENERALS?
NO...
THE PROSPERITY OF OUR CLAN?
THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!
ピョン!!
- PYON
(BOING)

NONE OF THAT MEANS THE SLIIIIIIGH—
—TEST LITTLE THING TO ME.
NO, THE ONLY THING...
...THAT GETS MY HEART PUMPING AND RACING IN MY CHEST IS...
I-
-RO-
-HA-
-MI-
-YA-
-MO-
-TO-
'CHAAAAAN!♡
BIKAAAA (FLAASH)

In mere moments ...
...we will begin the third match: Tenten Koganei vs. Iroha Miyamoto!
Pay close attention, folks!
This will be the fanciest and most important match of the day, if you ask me!


PACHIN (SNAP)
INCLUDING THESE. ♡
NIYA (SMIRK)
WEA-PONS ...?
.....
Any and all weapons are allowed !!
An any-thing-goes death-match!


ZORO (THUMP)
ZORO
ZORO
!?
UZO
UZO
UZO (LOOM)

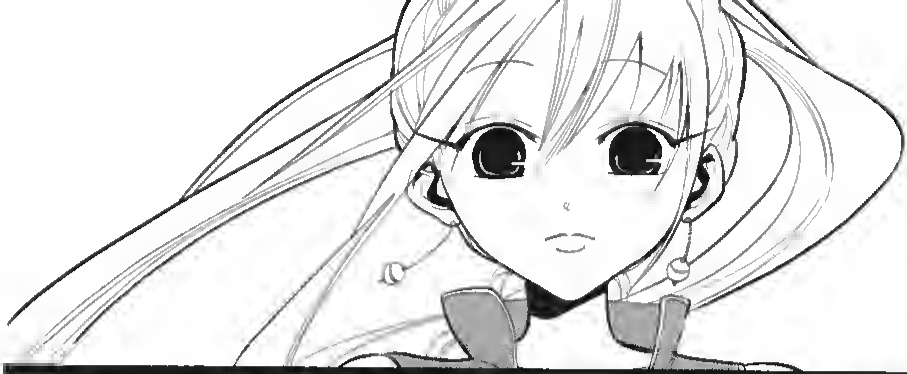
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA
(ZWOOOOSH)
DON
DON
DON
DON (WHAM)
DOSUN (THWAM)
SFX. YUBWA (WHOOSH)
GATSUN (KTAKK)

UZO (CLURCH)
ZO
ZO
ZO
ZO
ZO
IN OTHER WORDS, A GROUP BATTLE WITH HANZOU-KUN!
...AND YOU MAY USE YOURS!
I SHALL USE MY HENCH-MEN...
WHA...
WHAT IN THE—!?

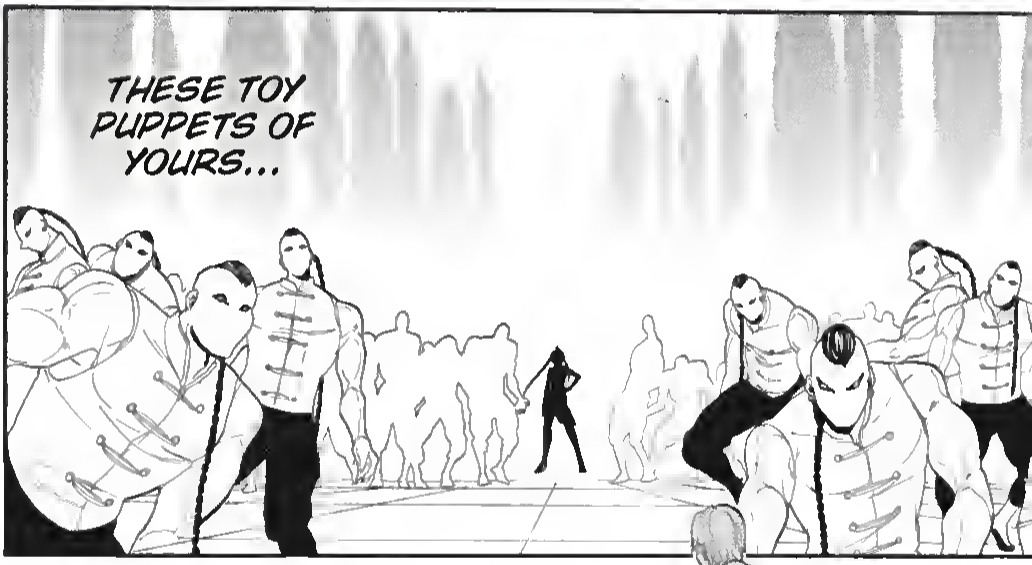
AND NOT ONLY THAT...
THIS IS UNJUST! THEY CLEARLY HAVE THE EDGE IN NUMBERS!
TIGER AND SNAKE! A BATTLE BETWEEN THE GREATEST FEMALE TALENTS OF EACH CLAN!
DOESN'T IT EXCITE YOU!?
IROHA-DONOOO!!
...PROJECTS A KILLER'S AURA. THEY ARE MIGHTY MEN!
EACH AND EVERY ONE...
...THOSE ARE NO MERE HENCH-MEN.
THIS IS TOO PERIL-OUS...
.....
SU (SHFF)

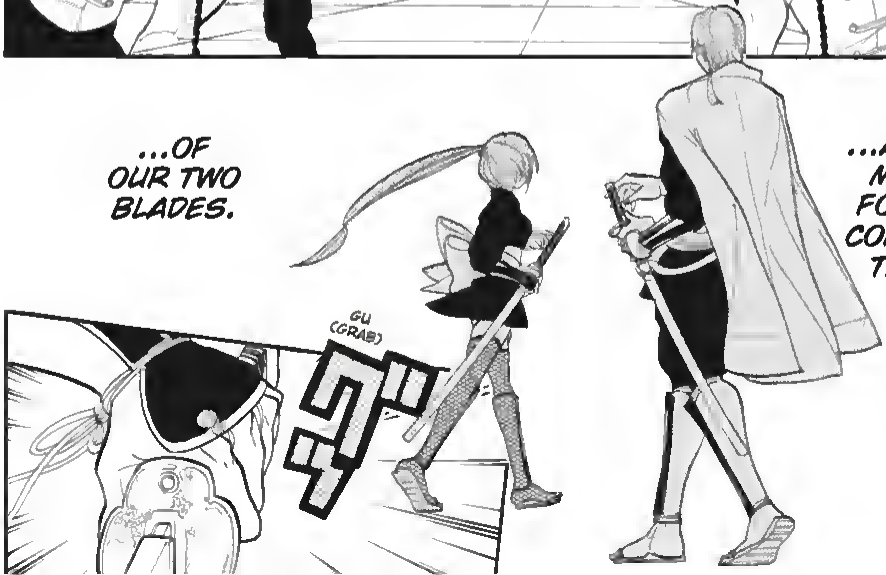
LET'S GO...
ZA (ZSH)
...HANZOU.
TA (TAK)
SHURU (SHLLIP)

AS YOU COM-MAND, NEE-SAN.
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA



STRENGTH IS NOT FOUND IN NUMBERS.

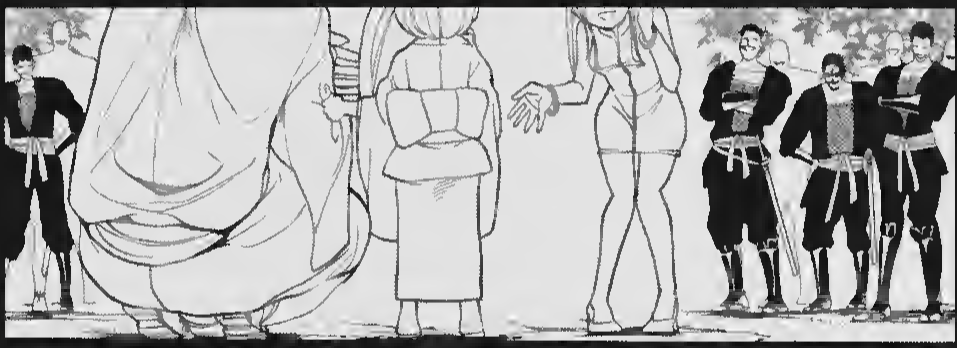




JAAAAAA
(SHHHHING)
GAKIN
(KACHING)

CHAPTER 35: TWO BLADES OF CONVICTION – END

TEN YEARS AGO...

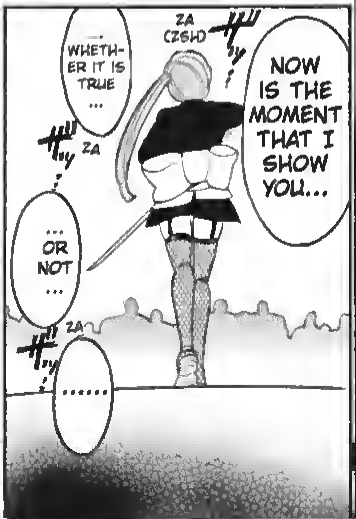


AND NOW ...
IROHA-CHAN!
ZA (ZSHD
IROHA-CHAN!
ZA
ZA
... AFTER EIGHT LONG YEARS ...
...OF DECEIVING AND MOCK-ING ME WITH THAT SMILE...
THE ONE SHE USED ...
...TO STEAL AWAY EVERY-THING MY CLAN HELD DEAR...
BYUUU (WHOOOSH)

...THAT HATEFUL WITCH...

AHx
HAx
HAx
HAx
HAx
HAx
HAx

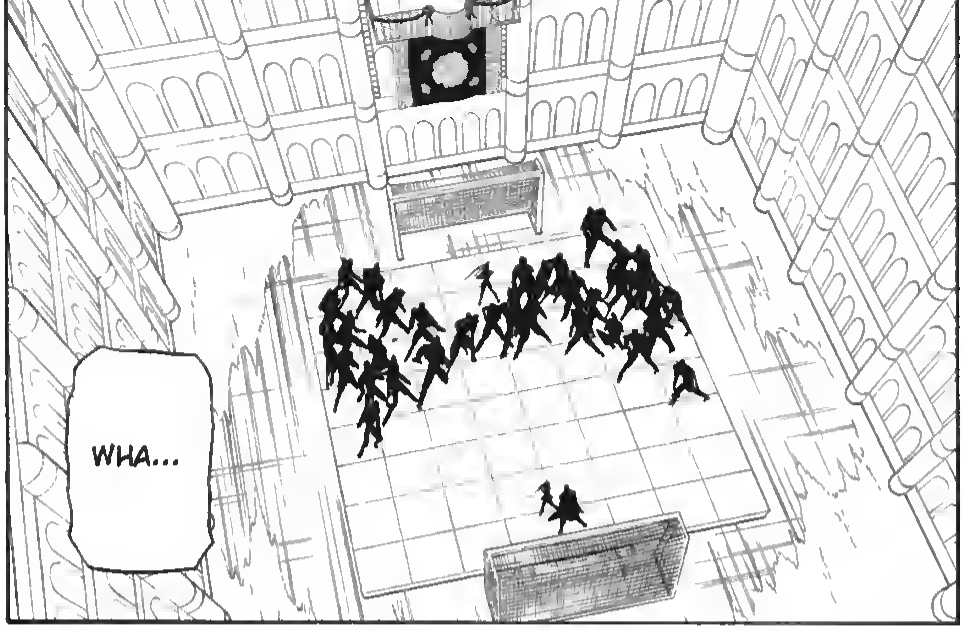
ITA (STOP)

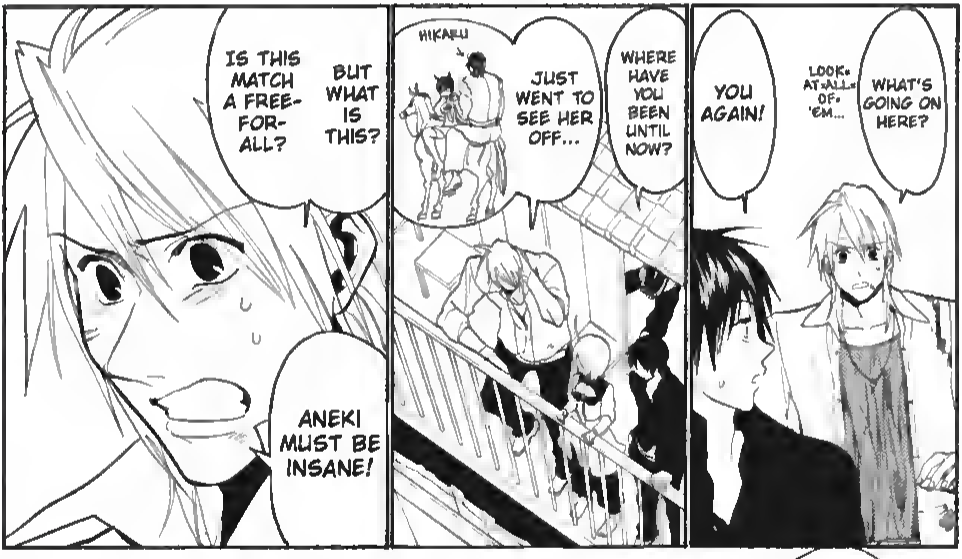

ZA (ZSHD
NOW IS THE MOMENT THAT I SHOW YOU...
WHETHER IT IS TRUE ...
ZA
... OR NOT ...
ZA
.....

TENTEN KOGANEI.

HA HA
HA
.....
HA HA

36. HEARTBREAK
ZAN!! (SLASH)
...THAT I AM JUST SOME GIRL WHO EXISTS TO BE ROBBED!!


WHA...


IS THIS MATCH A FREE-FOR-ALL?
BUT WHAT IS THIS?
ANEKI MUST BE INSANE!
HIKARU
JUST WENT TO SEE HER OFF...
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN UNTIL NOW?
YOU AGAIN!
LOOK AT ALL OF 'EM...
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

...SO WHY?
THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED LAST WEEK...

WHY DOES IROHA SEEM...
...SO CALM AND COMPOSED THIS TIME!?
WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT ME FROM A WEEK AGO...
FUA (SWISH)
HYUUUUUU (WHOOOOSH)
ZA (SKFF)
CHAKI (CHHK)
IT'S NOT THE SAME...

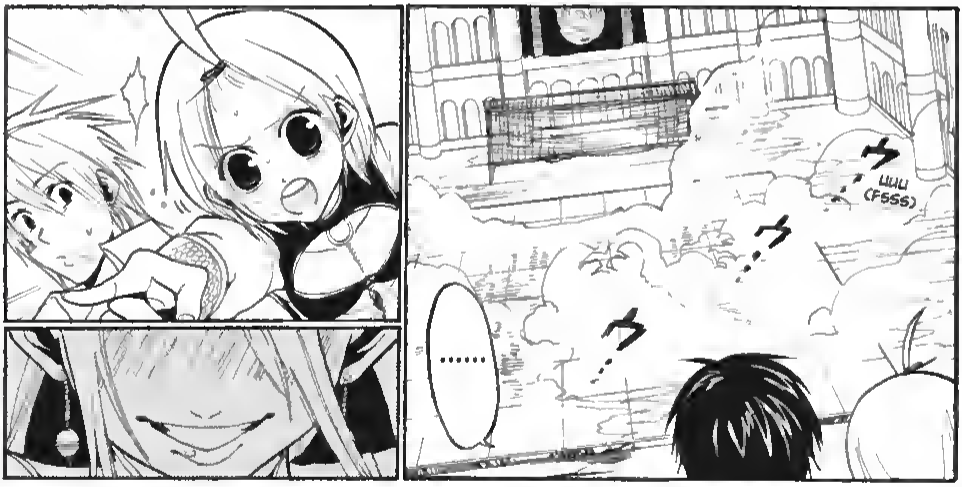
OOOOO (WHOOOSH)
!!/!!
...IS THAT I HAVE HIM !!
NII (SMIRK)
HAAAAAAH!!

ZAN
(SLASH)
JAKIN
(CHAKING)
!
SU
SU
(SSK)
HMPH.
DO
(THD)
DO
DO
SU

SHU (SWK)
SHU
SHU
SO, YOU COME PRE-PARED ...
NO MAT-TER!
KIN (CLANG)
KIN
KIN
GUWAA (LOOM)
FU (SWISH)

DO
DO
DO
DO
DO (PLUND)
!!
EX-
PLO-
SIVES
!!
NICE
TRY!!
ZUBAAN
(ZBAMM)

ZUBAN
ZUBAN (ZWANNU)
シュウ
SHUU (HSS)
シュウ
SHUU
シュウ…
SHUU


UUU (FSSS)
……

HEE!
HEE!
HEE!

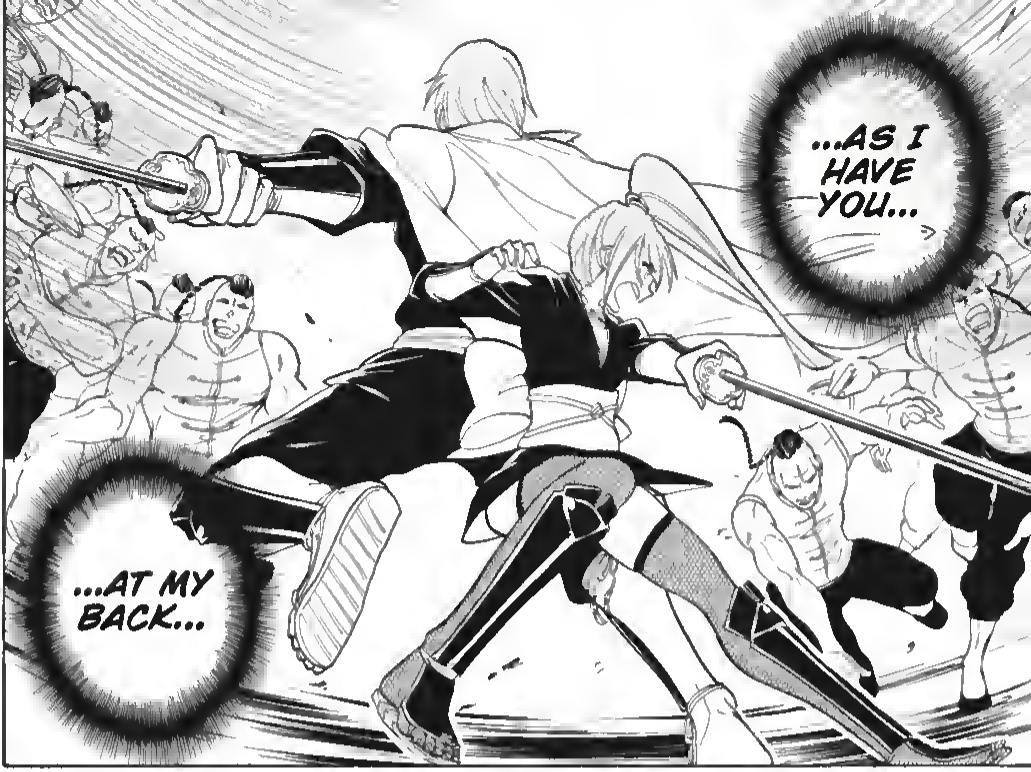
HEE!
HEE!
HEE!
HEE!
!!
WE'RE SUR-ROUNDED!
IROHA!!
WHAT WILL SHE DO NOW?
OH NO...
HOW FOOLISH OF YOU. ♡

HOW IS IT POS-SIBLE?
...IN THE MIDST OF ALL THIS...
HOW...
HOW?
.....
...CAN SHE STILL KEEP HER COOL!?

IT'S BECAUSE I HAVE A MAN AT MY BACK TO SUPPORT ME.
I HAVE MADE IT THIS FAR WITHOUT BACKING DOWN FROM PERIL...
WE WERE THREATENED.
WE WERE SURROUNDED JUST LIKE THIS.
THERE WERE MANY SQUABBLES WITH OTHER SYNDICATES LOOKING TO CRUSH US.
THE MIYAMOTO CLAN HAS COLLAPSED.
...BECAUSE YOU WERE THERE FOR ME...
...AND IT WAS ALWAYS...

...HAN-ZOU!!
...YOU NEVER LEFT MY SIDE!
EVEN ON THE DAY I FOUND MYSELF ALL ALONE...
...YOU NEVER LAUGHED AT ME...
NO MATTER HOW I FELL OR TRIPPED...

I WANT TO REPAY THAT TRUST.
YOU STUCK WITH ME AND BELIEVED IN ME.
AND EVERY TIME I WISH FOR THAT...
I WANT TO EARN IT.
I WANT TO BE WORTH IT.
... STRENGTH FLOODS MY BODY!
AS LONG...
IT MAKES ME CAPABLE OF BEING STRONGER...


...AS I HAVE YOU...
...AT MY BACK...

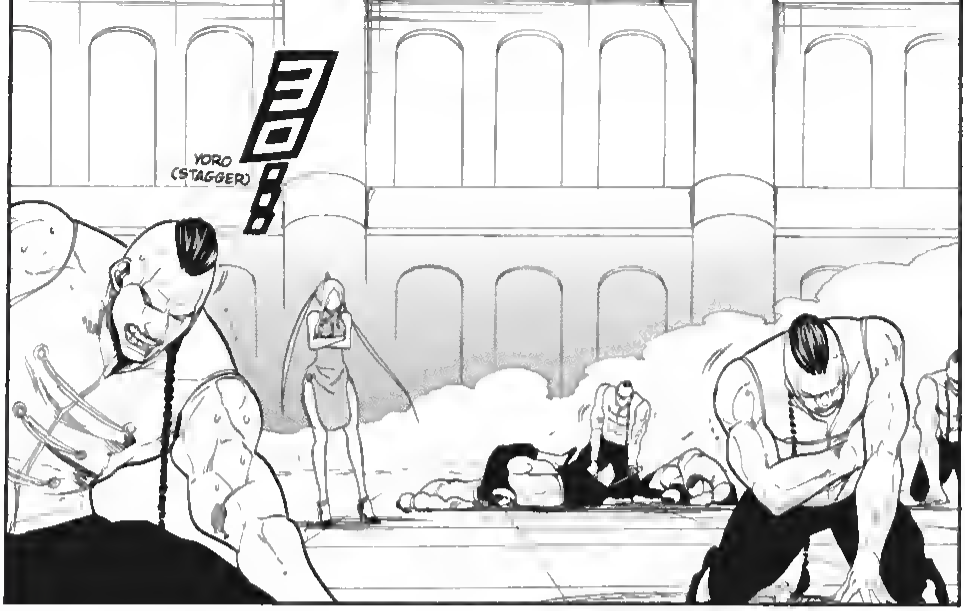
...TO NOTHING !!!
HERE WE GO!!
... I WILL SUC-CUMB ...

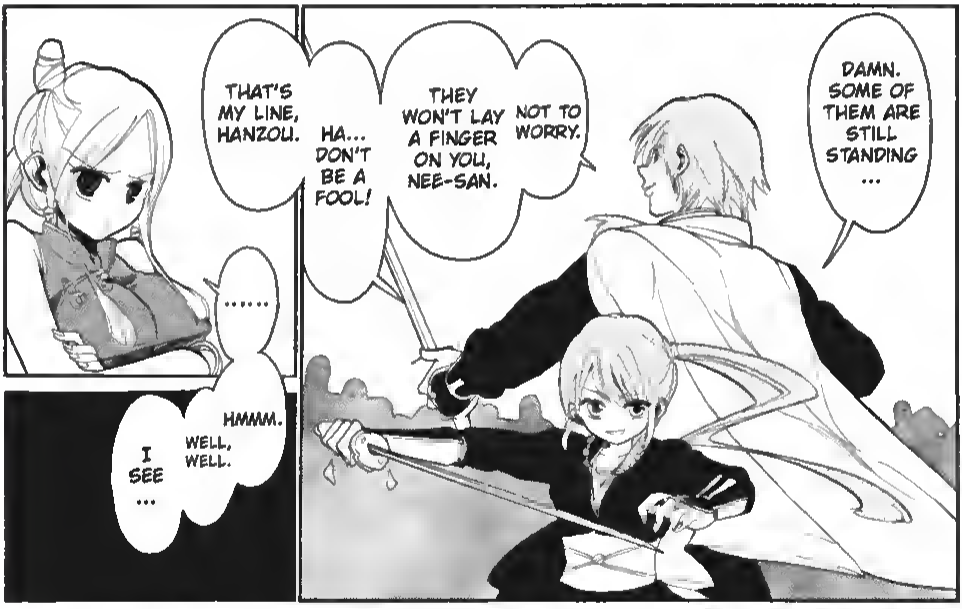
... SECRET ART!!!
... GENMA-RYUU ... !!!
OO (WHOO)
INDARA JAE!...
GU (GRIP)

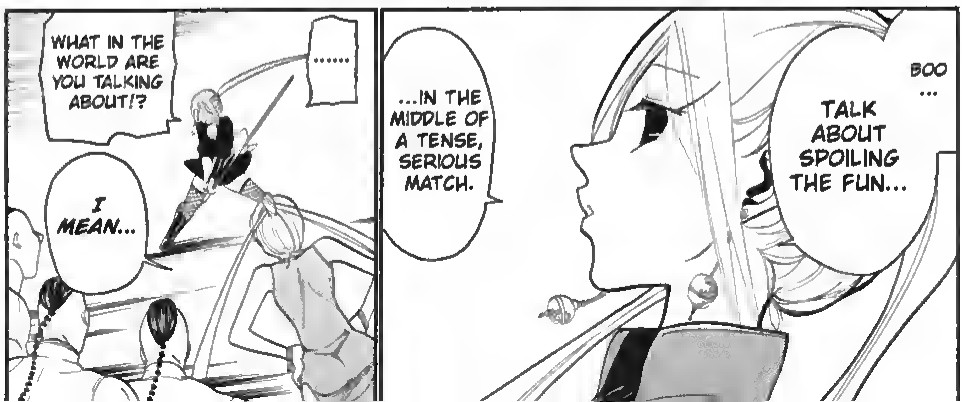
ZUBA
(SLICE)

COMBINATION ATTACK...

OOOH...
MOST IMPRES-SIVE...
DON! (BOOM)
SUCH TRUST AND SOLIDAR-ITY!!
MADARA FULL-MOON SLICE!
DUAL-BLADE STYLE!
DOSA (THUD)
DOSA
DOSA

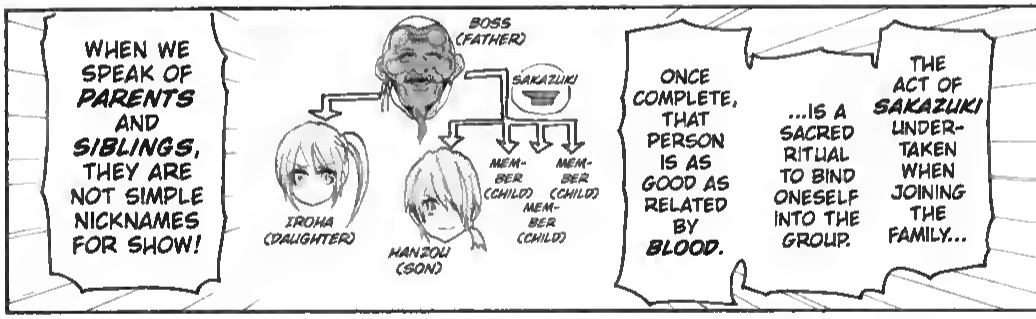

!!!
YORO (STAGGER)


DAMN. SOME OF THEM ARE STILL STANDING ...
NOT TO WORRY. THEY WON'T LAY A FINGER ON YOU, NEE-SAN.
HA... DON'T BE A FOOL!
THAT'S MY LINE, HANZOU.
.....
HMMM. WELL, WELL.
I SEE ...


BOO ...
TALK ABOUT SPOILING THE FUN...
...IN THE MIDDLE OF A TENSE, SERIOUS MATCH.
.....
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
I MEAN...

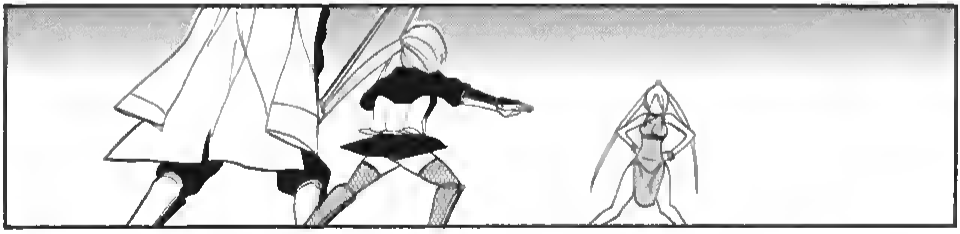
...YOUR ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP WITH A SUBORDI-NATE...
!?
...YOU SHOULD STOP SHOW-ING OFF.
AREN'T YOU ASHAMED OF YOUR-SELF?
FLAUNTING BEFORE EVERY-ONE...
PITA (STOP)
HOW DARE YOU...?
KATA
KATA
KATA (TRMBL)
KATA
YOU'RE THE ONE...WHO SHOULD BE ASHAMED!
.....
WHAT'S WRONG?

YOU ARE SUCH A FOOL!
KI (GLARE)
DO NOT BELITTLE THE RELATION-SHIP OF TRUST WITHIN THE YAKUZA CLAN!!


WHEN WE SPEAK OF PARENTS AND SIBLINGS, THEY ARE NOT SIMPLE NICKNAMES FOR SHOW!
BOSS (FATHER)
SAKAZUKI
IROHA (DAUGHTER)
HANZOU (SON)
MEM-BER (CHILD)
MEM-BER (CHILD)
MEM-BER (CHILD)
ONCE COMPLETE, THAT PERSON IS AS GOOD AS RELATED BY BLOOD.
...IS A SACRED RITUAL TO BIND ONESELF INTO THE GROUP.
THE ACT OF SAKAZUKI UNDER-TAKEN WHEN JOINING THE FAMILY...

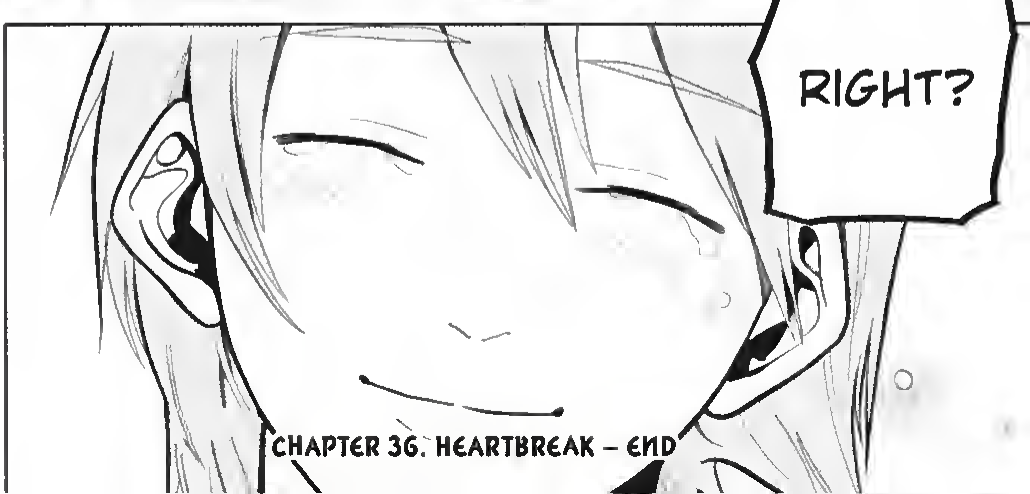
IN OTHER WORDS, HANZOU AND I...
...ARE BROTHER AND SISTER!!
THIS IS NOTHING LIKE THE SHALLOW FLIRTING...
...BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN HERE...

THERE ISN'T THE TEEN-SIEST, TINIEST ...
BASSARI (SLICE)
... MOST INSIGNI-FICANT FEELING OF ROMANCE BETWEEN US!!



IS THAT TRUE?
IT IS!
RIGHT, HANZOU?
BA (TURN)
.....
PARA
PARA (CRUMBLE)

バッサリ
SASSAR (SLICE)


RIGHT?

.....
THERE ISN'T THE TEENSIEST, TINIEST...
...MOST INSIGNIFICANT FEELING OF ROMANCE BETWEEN US!
I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN, BUT...
TSÛIU (SLIDE)
POTA (DRIP)
...AND I KNOW I'LL NEVER BE ANYTHING MORE THAN THAT.
WELL, SHE'S RIGHT, OF COURSE. I'M HER SUBORDINATE...
...IT'S SO HARD...TO STOP THE TEARS...
...WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT FRANKLY...

...NEE-SAN!
37. ONE-SIDED CRUSHER
JUST AS I SUSPECTED...
HMMM.

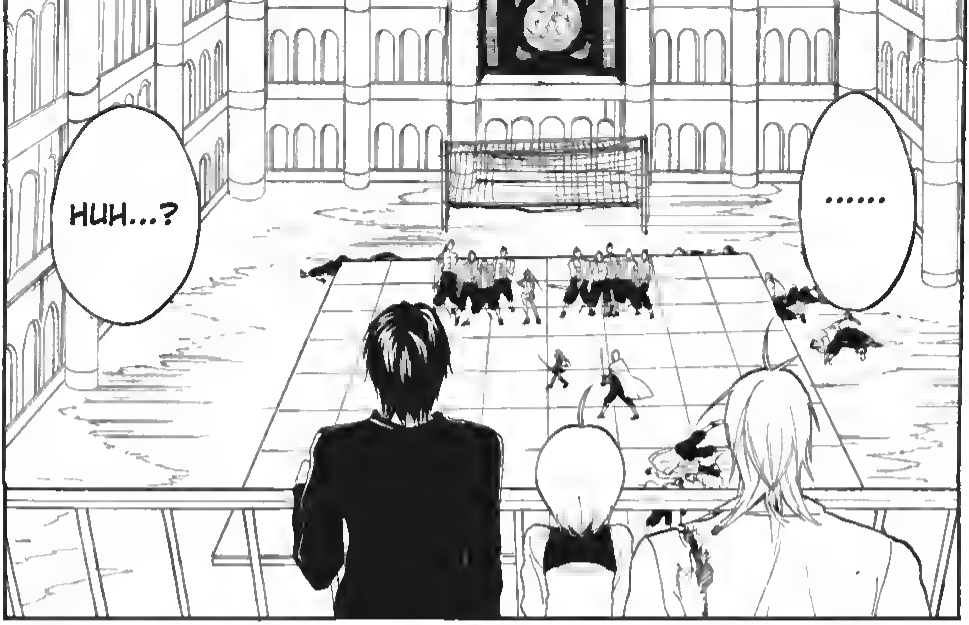
HAAA!
ZUBAN (SLASH)
OH DEAR.
DOOO (BOOOM)
THIS LOOKS MORE FUN TO ME. ♡
VERY TRUE...
...LIKE YOU'VE LOST MOST OF YOUR LITTLE PUPPETS, HAVEN'T YOU?
HOW'S THAT? IT LOOKS TO ME...
ON THE OTHER HAND...
CHIRA (PEEK)

!?
GISHI
ギシッ
GISHI (GSH)
ギシッ
STOP, STOP, STOP!
OKAY!
PAN (CLAP)
PAN
PAN
JOKE!?
...BUT I HAVE TO RETRACT THAT JOKE I MADE EARLIER.
I HATE TO INTER-RUPT IN THE MIDDLE OF YOUR FIGHT...
.....
THAT'S WHAT I SAID.
...IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE...
IROHA-CHAN, YOU ARE ALREADY...
YOU TWO AREN'T ACTUALLY LOVERS AT ALL.
THE THING IS...
...I KNOW THE TRUTH.

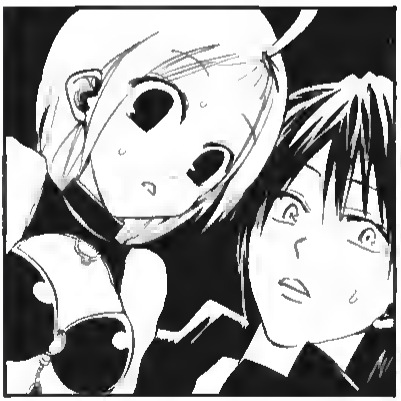
.....?
WHY IS SHE BRINGING THIS UP IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIGHT...?
OUT WITH IT!
WHAT'S YOUR POINT?
.....?
.....
CHIRA (PEEK)
.....!?
I WILL, YOU KNOW.
YOU WANT ME TO SAY IT?
WHAT...?
SU (SSK)
.....
.....
THE MAN IROHA-CHAN...
...IS IN LOVE WITH IS...

!!
KA (BAM)
THE MAN IROHA-CHAN—!
BIKU (TWITCH)
.....
.....?
...THAN YOU!
SUUU (SSSK)
...IS NONE OTHER...
IS MADLY, WILDLY IN LOVE WITH...
BI (POINT)

HUH? .....?
.....
KOUSHI INUZUKA-KUUUUN !!!
WHA...?


HUH...?
.....

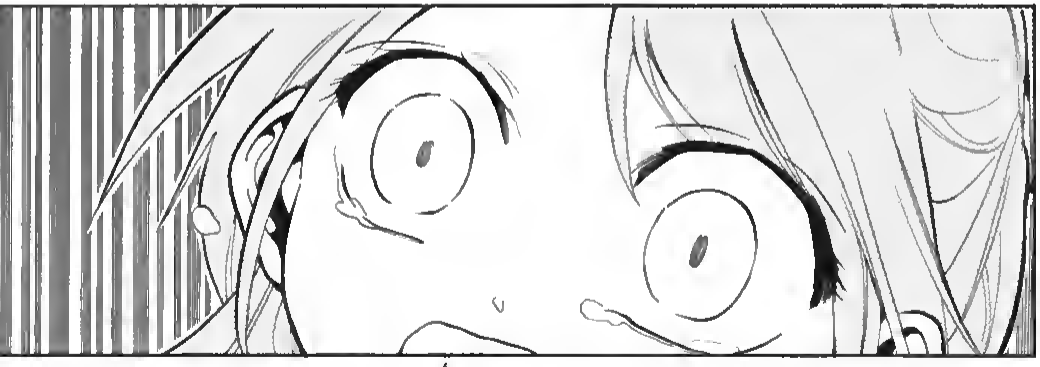
IROHA-DONO...



... LOVES ...
... KOUSHI-DONO ...?

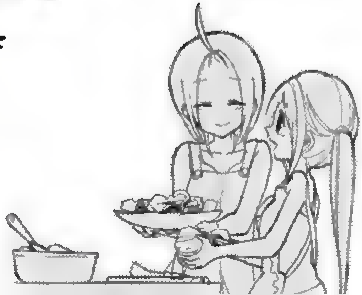
NOOOOOO!!
NO, NO, NO!!
STOP YOUR TASTELESS JOKES!
NEE-SAN!
CHILL OUT!
GAN (WHAM)
GAN
ACK!!
WHAT'S THIS? YOUR TEAMWORK IS FALLING APART.
AND IROHA-CHAN, THE THING ABOUT SECRETS IS...
...THE MORE YOU DENY THEM, THE MORE OBVIOUS THEY BECOME.
NOT THAT THE CAT WAS EVER IN THE BAG TO BEGIN WITH.
!!

...HOW DOES IT FEEL TO LEARN...
...THAT YOUR LITTLE FRIEND WAS SEEKING TO STEAL YOUR HUSBAND?
AND YOU, MADAM...
KOU-SHI-KUN!
STOP IT!
!
DO YOU LOVE IROHA-CHAN TOO?
IROHA-CHAN, OR YOUR LADY?
WHO DO YOU LIKE MORE ...
TELL US WHAT YOU'RE THINKING RIGHT NOW!
.....
.....
... SEN ...
... PAI ...
MOMO-KO...



...I LOVE YOU.

SENPAI...



...THE BOTH OF YOU.
...I LOVE YOU...

...THE THREE OF US WILL NEVER...
...SOMETHING TELLS ME...
...BUT...
I LOVE YOU...

...OR LAUGH TOGETHER AGAIN...
...TALK, HANG OUT...

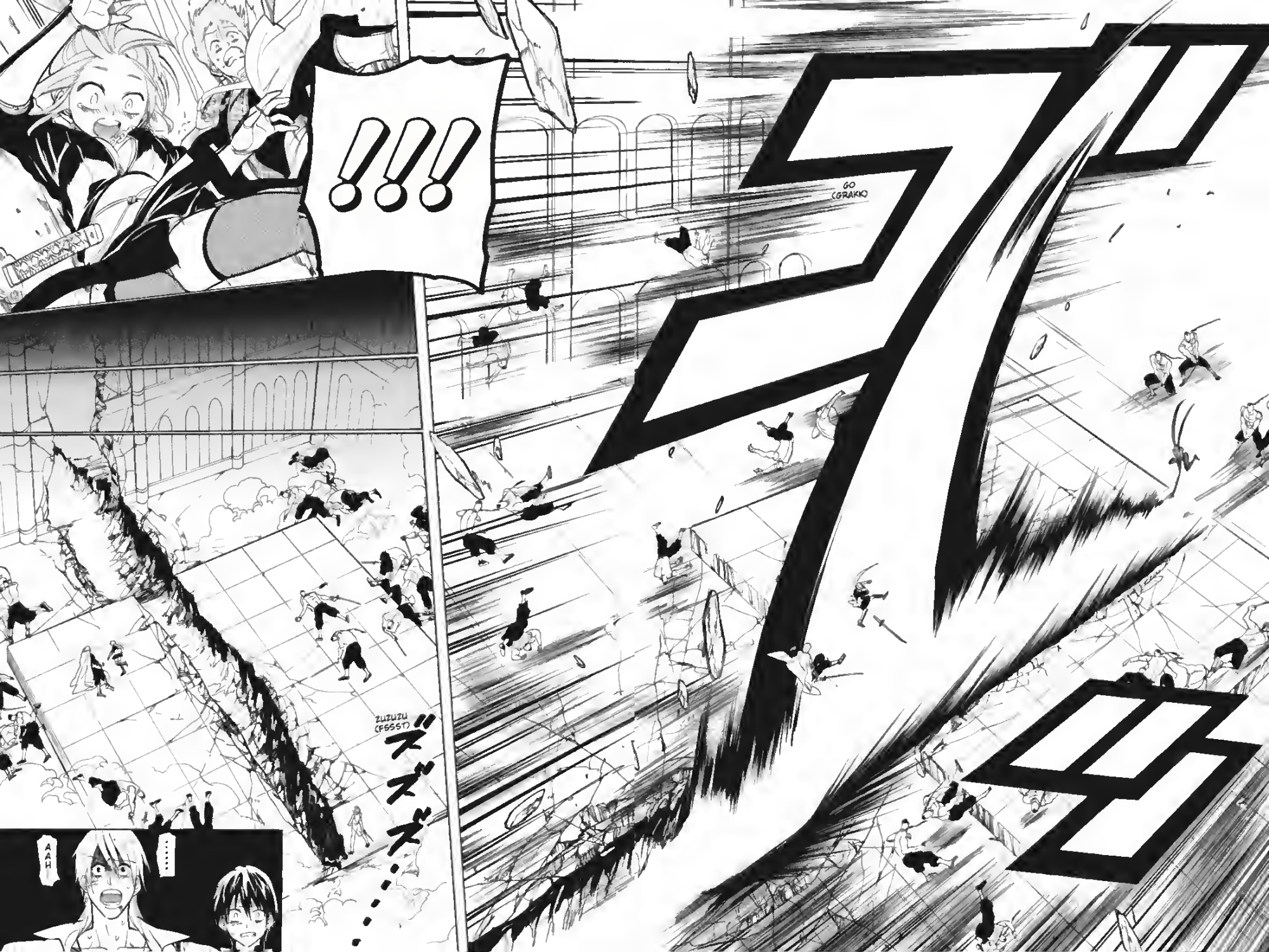
WE CAN NEVER DO IT AGAIN...
AH...
NEVER AGAIN...
NOW WHERE YOU...?
PFFT...

HOW DARE YOUUU!!
GUAA (GRAAH)
CRES-CENT-MOON SLICE!!!
BAN (SHWAK)

SFX. KI (SNAP)

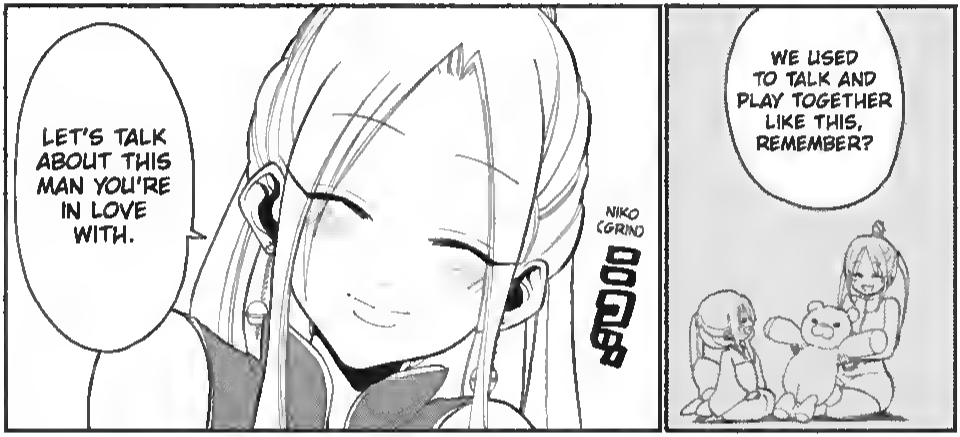
AND YOU KNOW THAT CRESCENT SLICE?
I TOOK A LITTLE PEEK AT YOUR SECRET SCROLLS.
WAKE UP AND LEARN YOUR LESSON.
GACHA (CLACK)
INSTEAD, SHE TURNS ON ME.
HMPH.

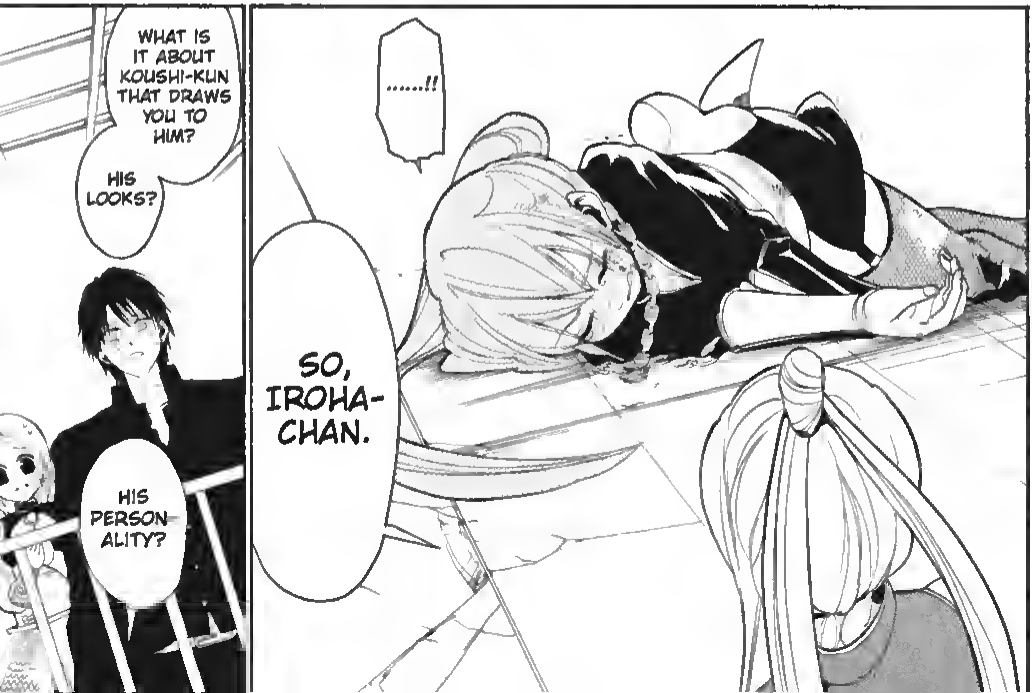
PACHI
PACHI (POP)
THIS IS HOW YOU DO IT.
DOOO (RUMBLE)
NO !!!
.....!!
OOOO (RUMBLE)

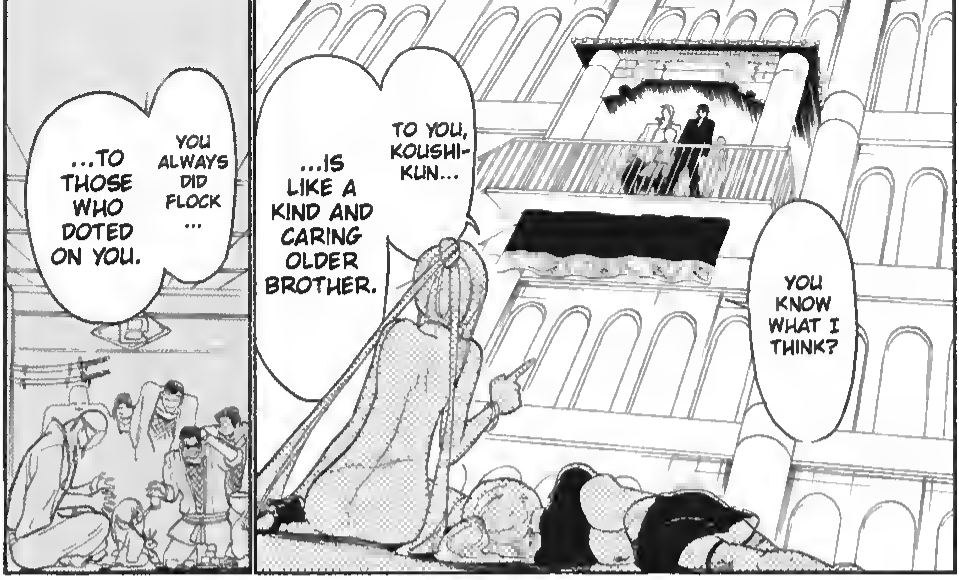

!!!
GO (GRAKK)
ZUZUZU (FSSST)
ズズズ……
AAH
……

OH MAN ...
SHE'S TOUGH!!
ZUZUZUZU (VSHHHH)
DON'T GO TO SLEEP YET.
COME ON.
GO
GO (RMB)
I'M NOT NEARLY THROUGH PLAYING WITH YOU.

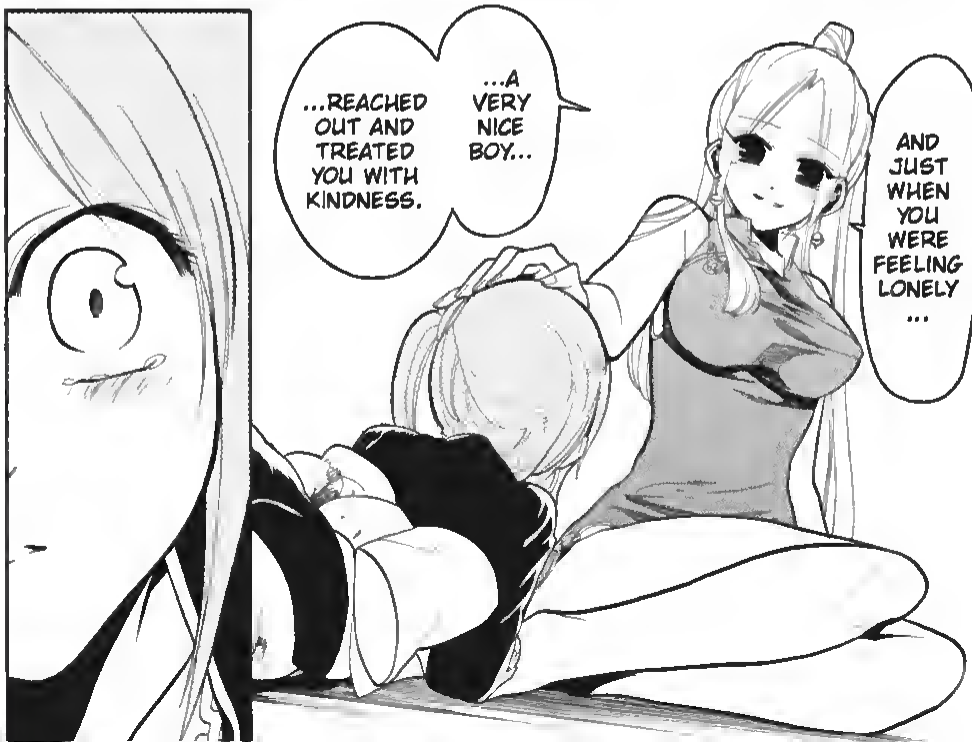
THIS TAKES ME BACK.
YOU KNOW WHAT?


LET'S TALK ABOUT THIS MAN YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH.
NIKO (GRIN
WE USED TO TALK AND PLAY TOGETHER LIKE THIS, REMEMBER?


WHAT IS IT ABOUT KOUSHI-KUN THAT DRAWS YOU TO HIM?
HIS LOOKS?
HIS PERSONALITY?
SO, IROHA-CHAN.
.....!!


YOU ALWAYS DID FLOCK ...
...TO THOSE WHO DOTED ON YOU.
TO YOU, KOUSHI-KUN...
...IS LIKE A KIND AND CARING OLDER BROTHER.
YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK?

SO (STROKE)
.....
KI (GLARE)
...YOU DON'T HAVE ANY OLDER CLAN MEMBERS TO PAMPER YOU...
BUT NOW...

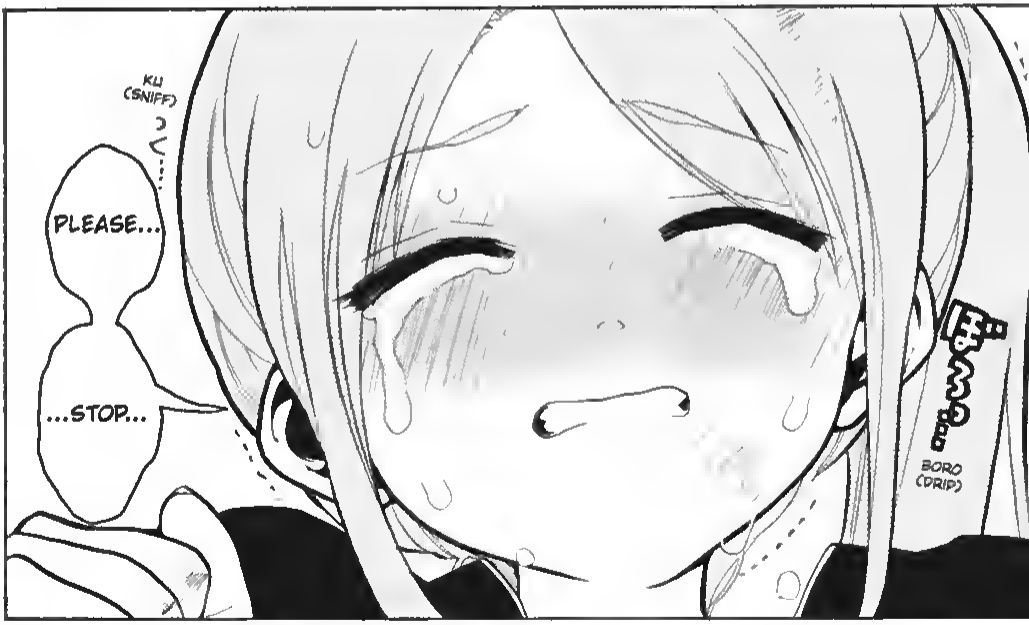

...REACHED OUT AND TREATED YOU WITH KINDNESS.
...A VERY NICE BOY...
AND JUST WHEN YOU WERE FEELING LONELY ...

...YOU'D FALL IN LOVE WITH HIM.
OF COURSE ...
ONII-CHAN!
YOU COULDN'T HELP IT.
IT'S NO SUR-PRISE.

AND WHAT DO YOU WANT...
...TO HAPPEN WITH KOUSHI-KUN?
DO YOU WANT TO GO OUT WITH HIM?
DO YOU WANT TO GO ON A DATE?
HOLDING HANDS ...
.....
... FEELING HIS CARESS ...
.....
.....
YOU WANT HIM TO KISS YOU?

!!
YES, I SEE!
YOU WANT HIM TO KISS YOU!
_HA_ (GASP)
NO! THAT'S NOT TRUE!
YOU CAN'T LIE ABOUT IT.
YOU WANT HIM TO DO...
...NAUGHTY THINGS TO YOU, YES?

WELL?
WELL!?
IROHA-CHAN!?

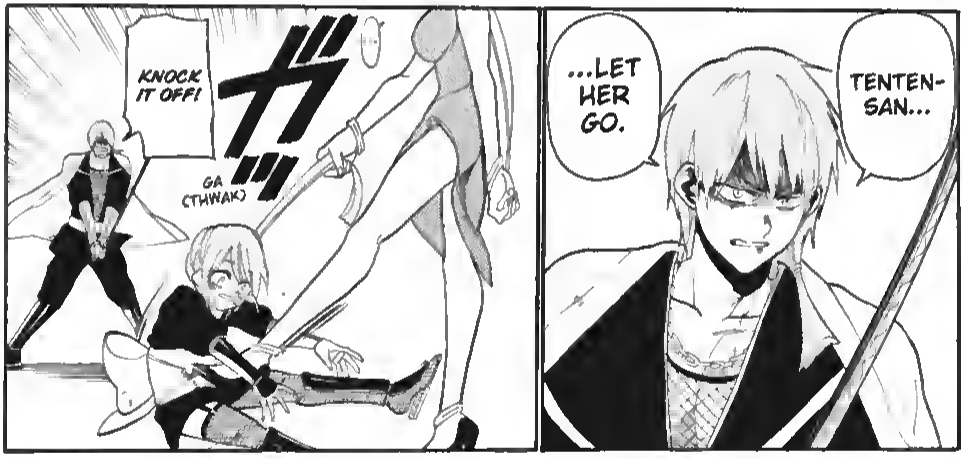

KU (SNIFF)
PLEASE...
...STOP...
BORO (DRIP)

KNOCK IT OFF!!
GA (WHAM)
……!!
HANZOU!!
……
YORO (LURCH)
ヨロ……

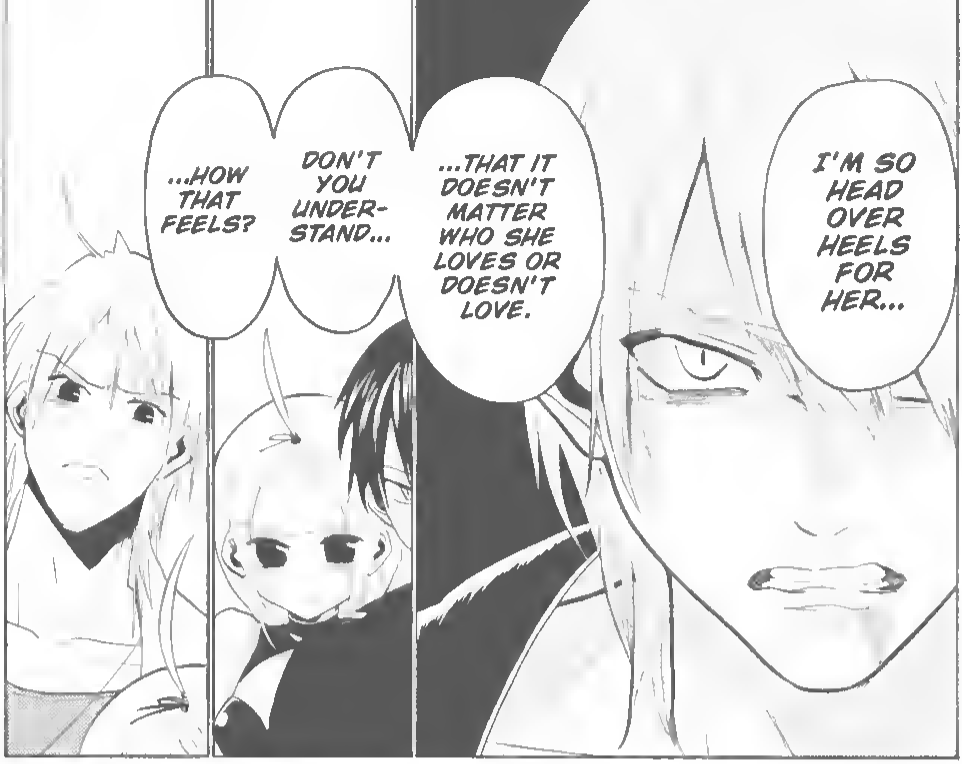
CHAPTER 37. ONE-SIDED CRUSHER – END

38. BEGGING
YOU GET YOUR FILTHY HANDS...
...OFF MY NEE-SAN, DAMN YOU!

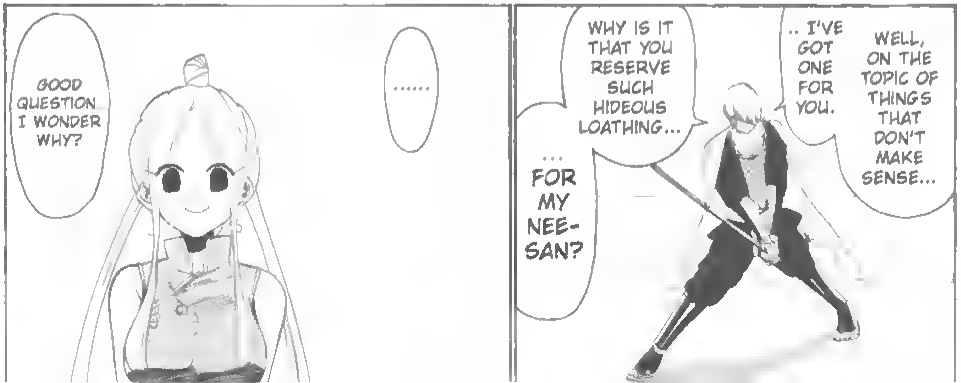
HANZOU'S BACK ON HIS FEET!
"FILTHY HANDS"?
THAT'S A BIG ATTITUDE TO TAKE WITH ME...
...HANZOU-KUN.


TENTEN-SAN...
...LET HER GO.
GA (THWAK)
KNOCK IT OFF!

I JUST DON'T UNDER-STAND.
WHY DO YOU GIVE EVERY-THING YOU HAVE FOR HER?
SHE'S IN LOVE WITH KOUSHI-KUN, YOU KNOW.
SHE DOESN'T LOVE YOU AT ALL.
.....

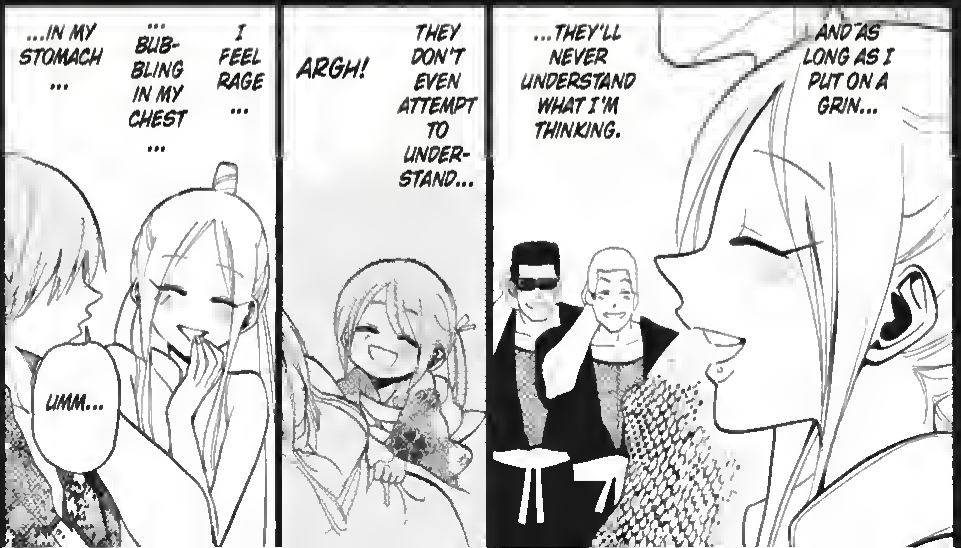

I'M SO HEAD OVER HEELS FOR HER...
...THAT IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO SHE LOVES OR DOESN'T LOVE.
DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND...
...HOW THAT FEELS?

I DON'T.
NOT IN THE LEAST!
.....

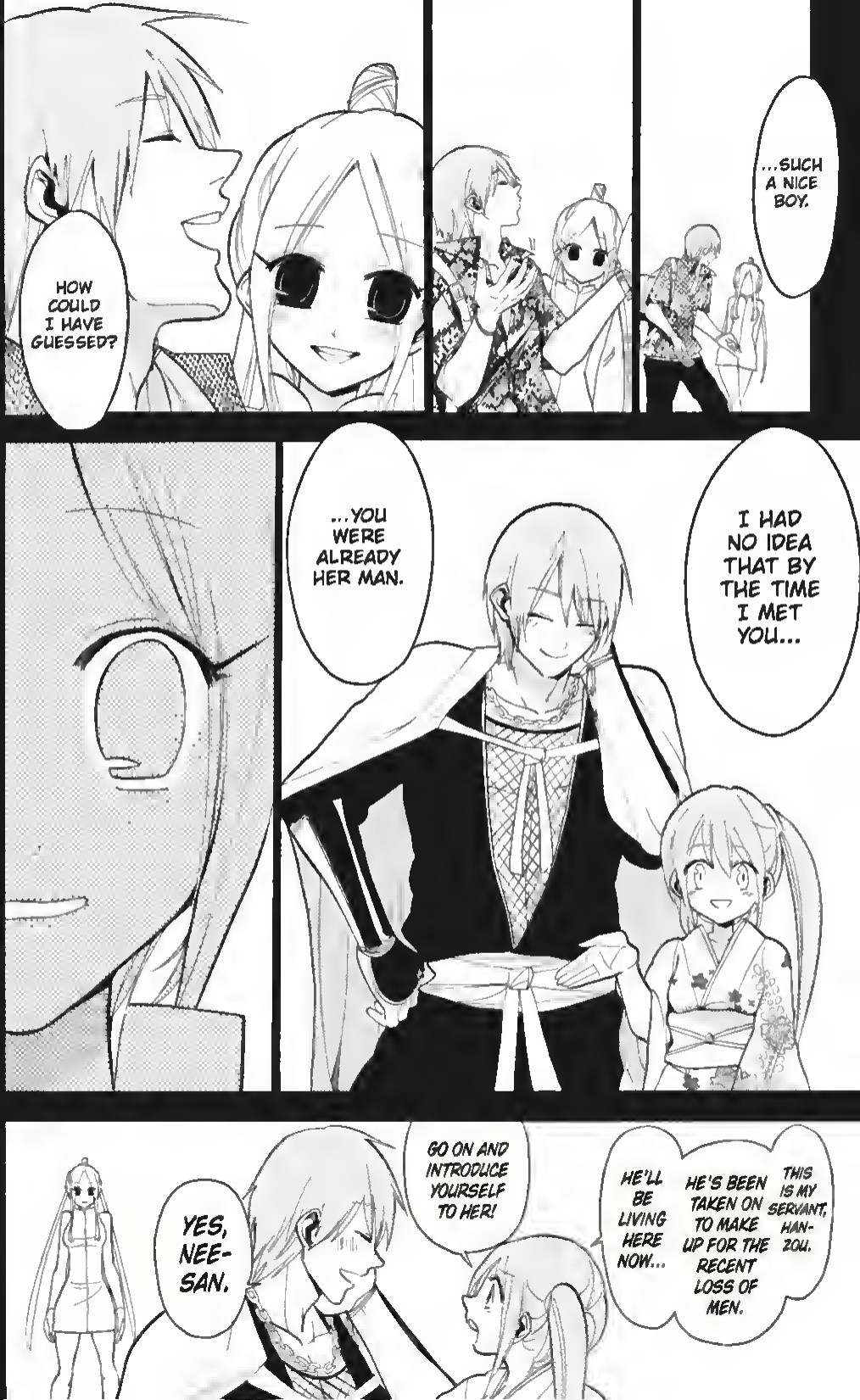

GOOD QUESTION. I WONDER WHY?
.....
WHY IS IT THAT YOU RESERVE SUCH HIDEOUS LOATHING...
... FOR MY NEE-SAN?
.. I'VE GOT ONE FOR YOU.
WELL, ON THE TOPIC OF THINGS THAT DON'T MAKE SENSE...

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
YOU WEREN'T LIKE THIS THE FIRST TIME WE MET.
AH, THE FIRST TIME...
THAT WAS WHEN...
...I WAS STAYING AT IROHA-CHAN'S HOME.

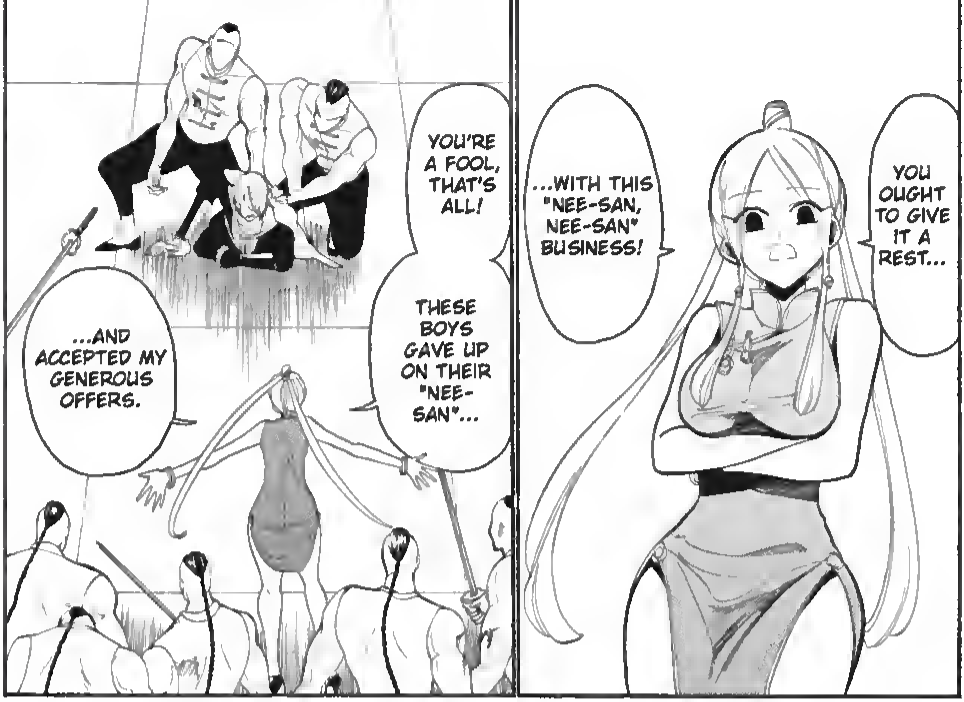
AND YOU...
...WERE WANDERING AROUND IN REGULAR CLOTHES...
...SO I ASSUMED YOU WERE JUST A GUEST WHO HAD GOTTEN LOST.
HERA (SWORD)
NIKO (GRIND)
THEY'RE RUNNING LOW...
...ON CLAN [redacted]-BERS
BECAUSE I'M STEALING THEM AWAY OF COURSE!

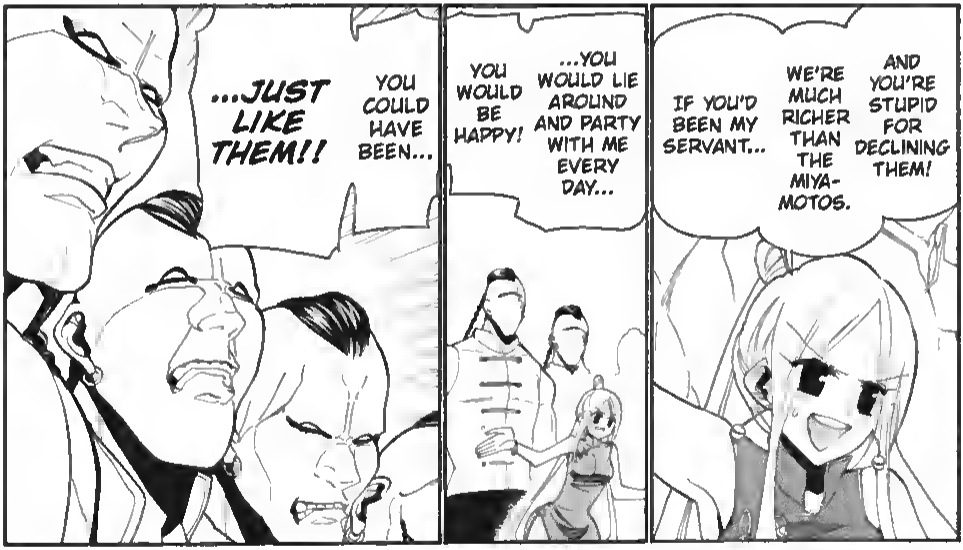

AND AS LONG AS I PUT ON A GRIN...
...THEY'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M THINKING.
ARGH!
THEY DON'T EVEN ATTEMPT TO UNDER-STAND...
I FEEL RAGE...
...BUB-BLING IN MY CHEST...
...IN MY STOMACH...
UMM...

ARE YOU...
...ANGRY... ABOUT SOME-THING?
...ARE YOU PEOPLE.
THE ONLY IDIOTS HERE...
.....
S-SORRY...
OH!
HUH?
WHAT KINDA IDIOCY ARE YOU ASKIN' HER?
HUH?
YOU WERE...


HOW COULD I HAVE GUESSED?
...SUCH A NICE BOY.
...YOU WERE ALREADY HER MAN.
I HAD NO IDEA THAT BY THE TIME I MET YOU...
YES, NEE-SAN.
GO ON AND INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO HER!
HE'LL BE LIVING HERE NOW...
HE'S BEEN TAKEN ON TO MAKE UP FOR THE RECENT LOSS OF MEN.
THIS IS MY SERVANT, HAN-ZOU.

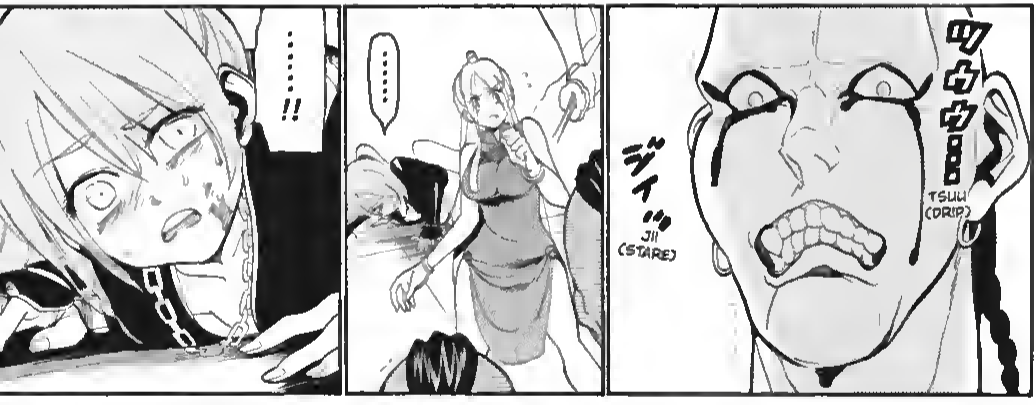
NEE-SAN.
NEE-SAN.
BUT WHAT'S YOUR POINT?
THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE TOPIC AT HAND.
WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS...
...WHY YOU HATE ...
...NEE-SAN—
YOU KNOW WHAT?
NU (SLIP)
BITAN (WHAM)
!!
GA (THWAK)

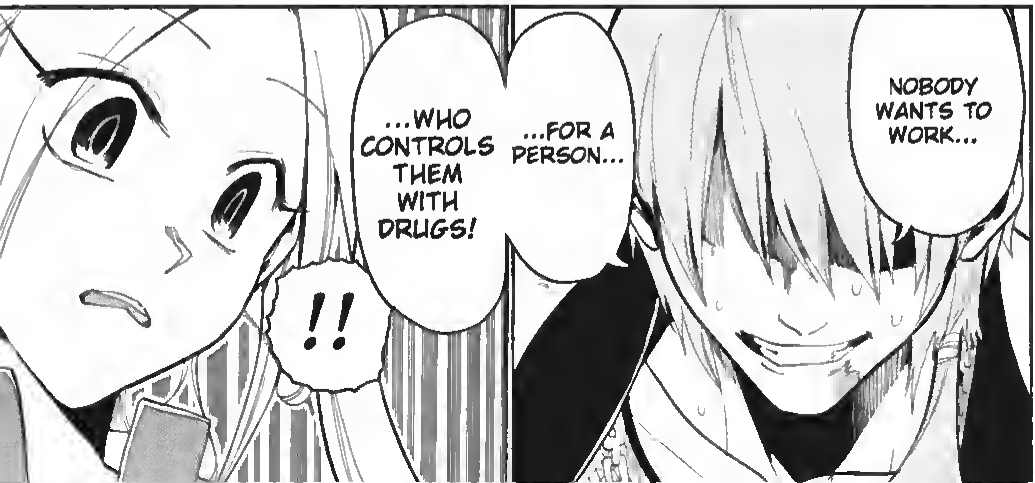

YOU OUGHT TO GIVE IT A REST...
...WITH THIS "NEE-SAN, NEE-SAN" BUSINESS!
YOU'RE A FOOL, THAT'S ALL!
THESE BOYS GAVE UP ON THEIR "NEE-SAN"...
...AND ACCEPTED MY GENEROUS OFFERS.


AND YOU'RE STUPID FOR DECLINING THEM!
WE'RE MUCH RICHER THAN THE MIYA-MOTOS.
IF YOU'D BEEN MY SERVANT...
...YOU WOULD LIE AROUND AND PARTY WITH ME EVERY DAY...
YOU WOULD BE HAPPY!
YOU COULD HAVE BEEN...
...JUST LIKE THEM!!

.....
IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK?

BURU (SHIVER)
BURU
UUUUU (RRRRGH)
!?


!!
TSUU (DRIP)
JII (STARE)

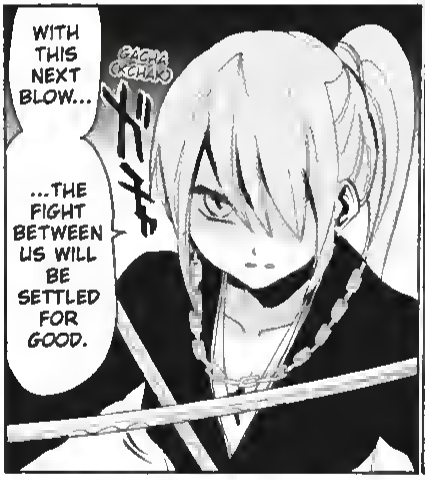

NOBODY WANTS TO WORK...
...FOR A PERSON...
...WHO CONTROLS THEM WITH DRUGS!
!!

AND NOTHING, NOT EVEN DEATH...
...IS GOING TO MAKE ME CHANGE THE WOMAN I CHOOSE TO SERVE...
HUH?
THEN...
...GO AHEAD AND DIE FOR ALL I CARE.
POTSURI (MUMBLE)
THIS IS EXACTLY...
...WHAT I HATE ABOUT HER.
!?
I STEAL...
KA (TOK)
...AND STEAL...
KA
...AND STEAL...
KA
KA
GOOO (OMMM)

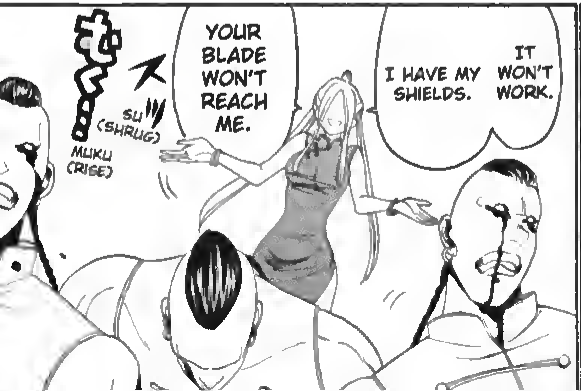
...AND SHE KEEPS...
!!
... SHOWING OFF ...
GUWAA (GRAAH)
...WHAT I DON'T HAVE !!!

GO
(GSHH)

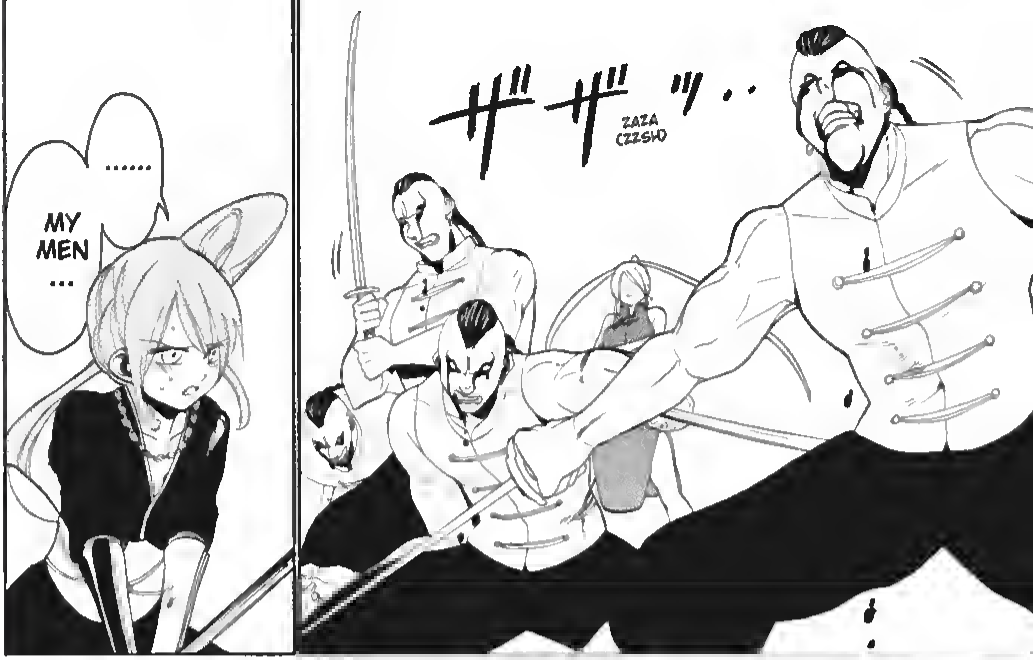
NEE-SAN!!


WITH THIS NEXT BLOW...
GACHA (CHAK)
...THE FIGHT BETWEEN US WILL BE SETTLED FOR GOOD.

DOOO (BOOM)

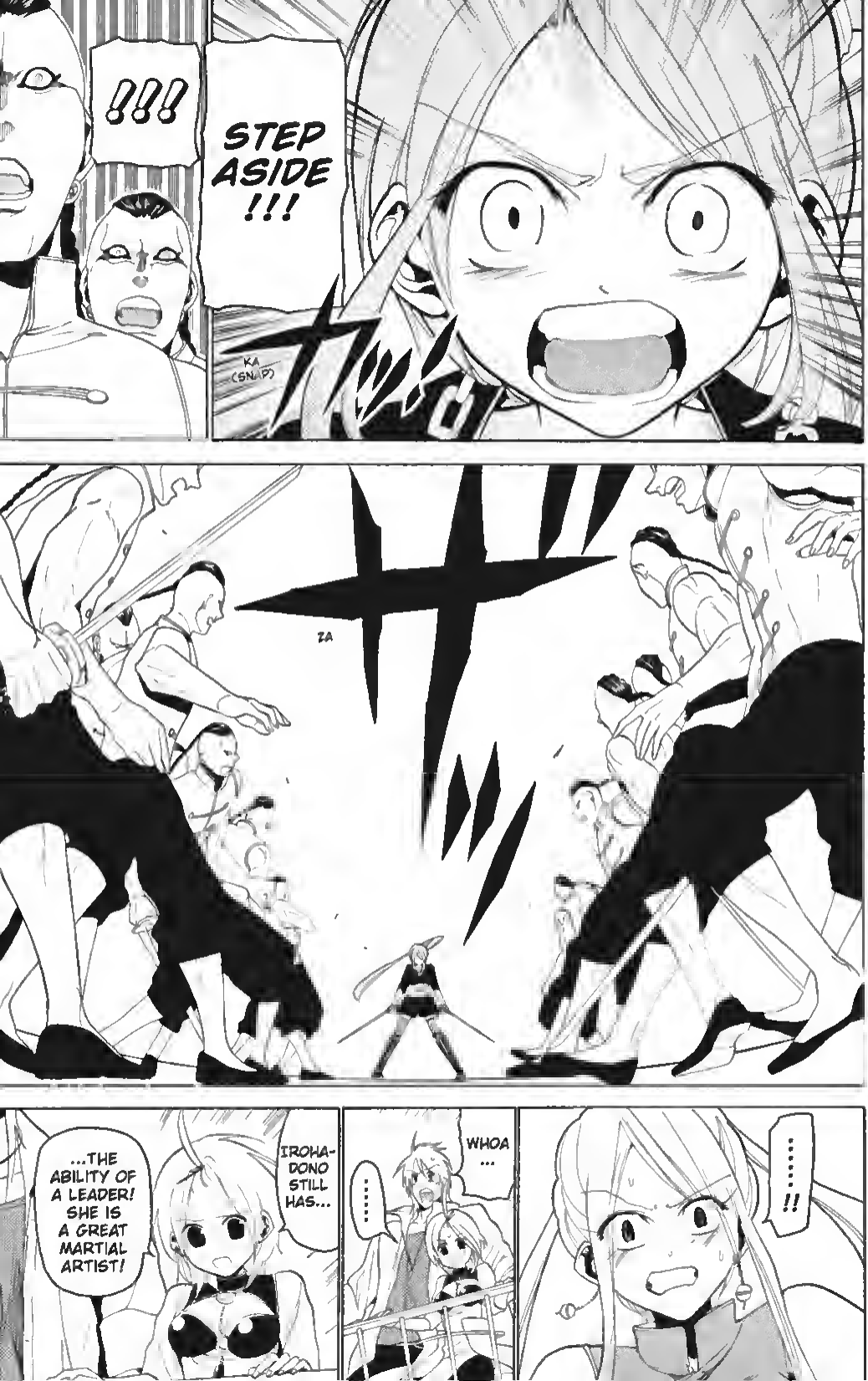

YOUR BLADE WON'T REACH ME.
I HAVE MY SHIELDS.
IT WON'T WORK.
SU (SHRUG)
MUKU (RISE)

.....
TENTEN KOGANE!!


.....
MY MEN ...
ZAZA (ZZSH)

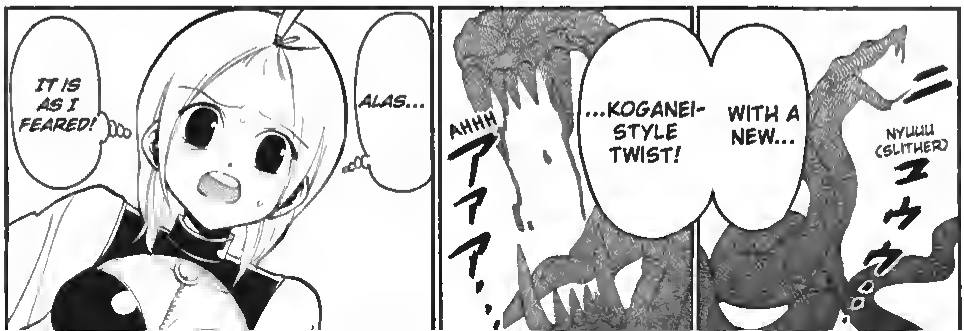
HOW DARE YOU!
YOU PATHETIC WORMS ...
YOU CALL YOUR-SELVES YAKUZA!
KI (GLARE)

GOOO (RUMBLE)


!!!
STEP ASIDE !!!
KA (SNAP)
ZA
...THE ABILITY OF A LEADER! SHE IS A GREAT MARTIAL ARTIST!
IROHA-DONO STILL HAS...
.....
WHOA ...
.....!!

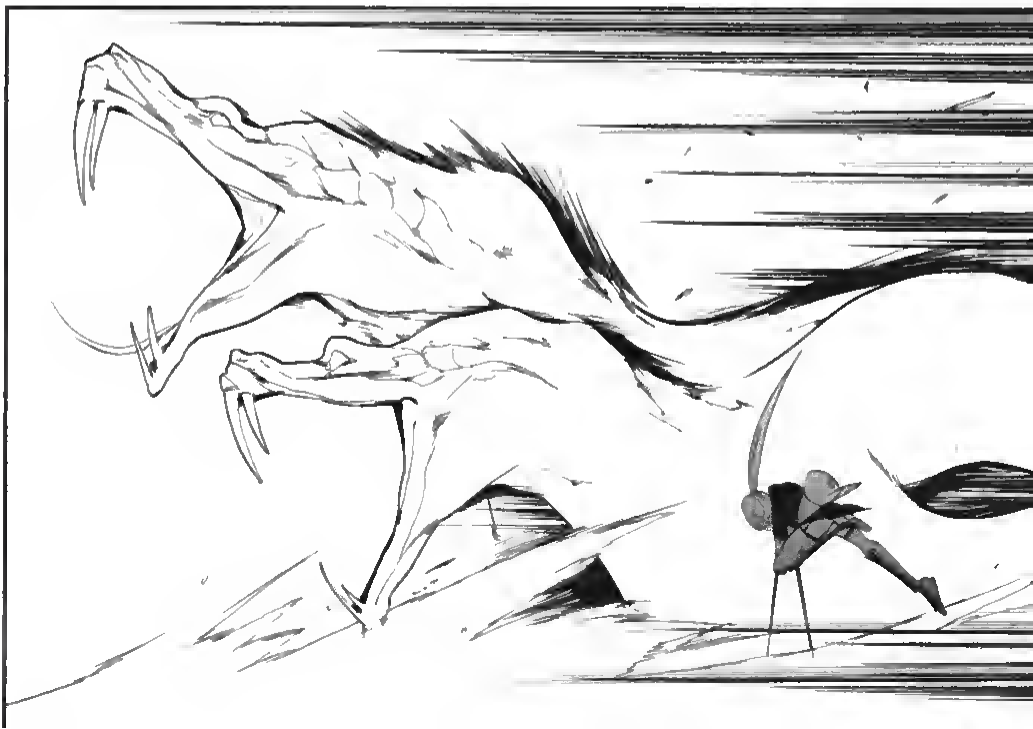
SEE HOW SHE STANDS TALL IN THE PRESENCE OF HER PEOPLE...
...WITH SUCH POWER AND IMPACT!!

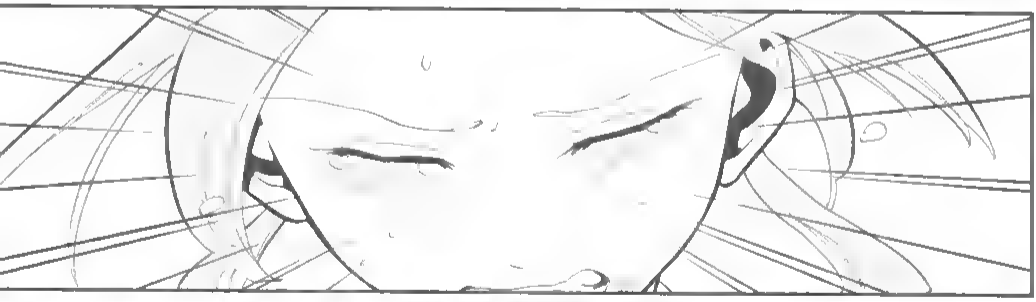
SHALL I COPY YOU AGAIN?
...I RECOG-NIZE THAT POSE TOO.
HOW-EVER...
FU... (HEH)

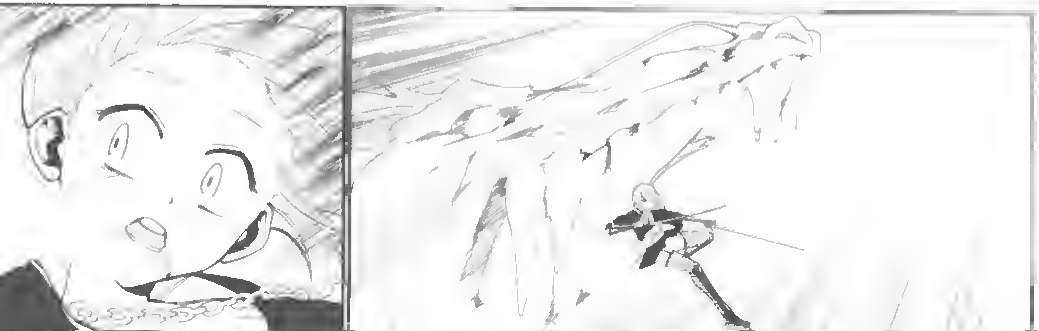

IT IS AS I FEARED!
ALAS...
AHHH アアア...
...KOGANEI-STYLE TWIST!
WITH A NEW...
NYUUU (SLITHER) ニュウ

GUAA (GRAWR)
THE ENEMY JUST HAS...
...TOO MUCH POWER!!
HAAAAH!!
AAAA (GRRR)

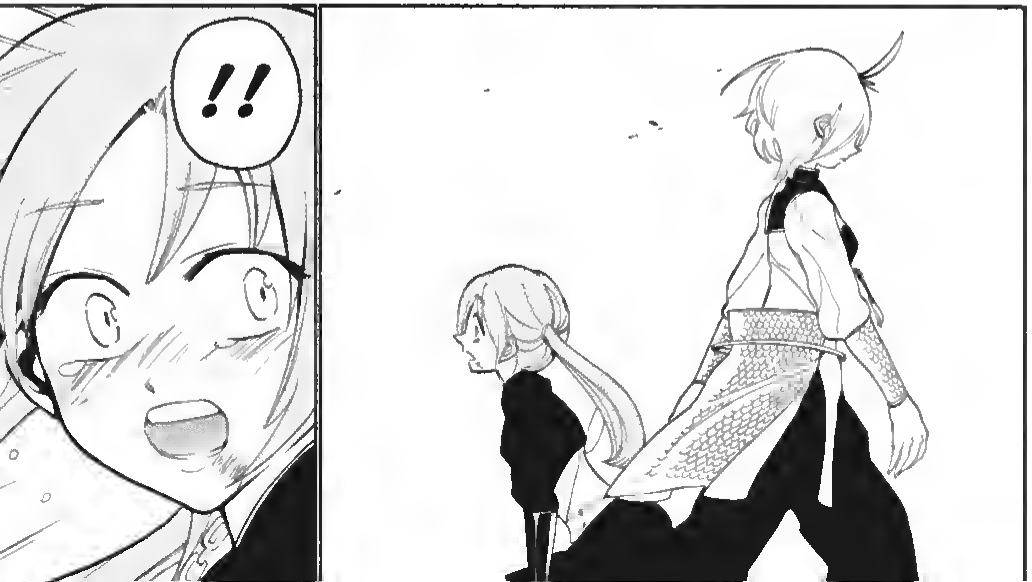
DA
CRASH



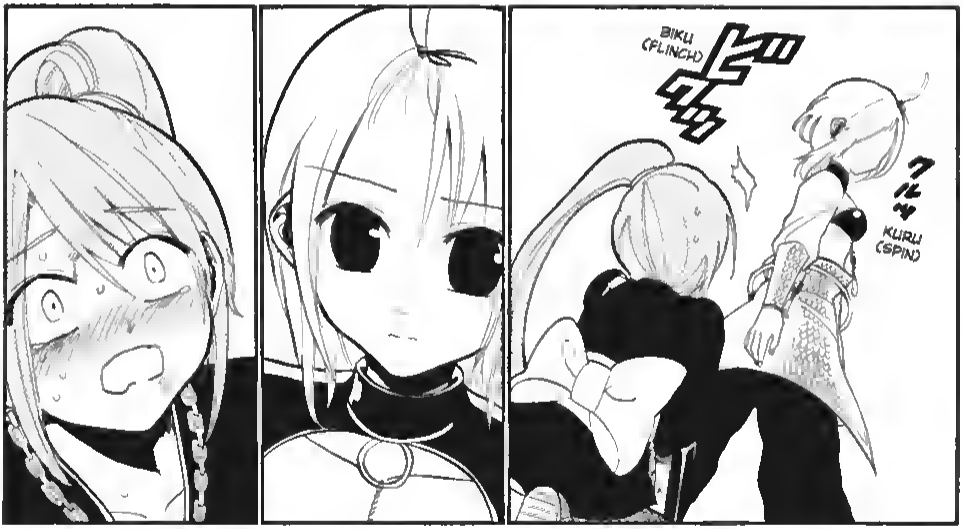




DOON
CBOOM!

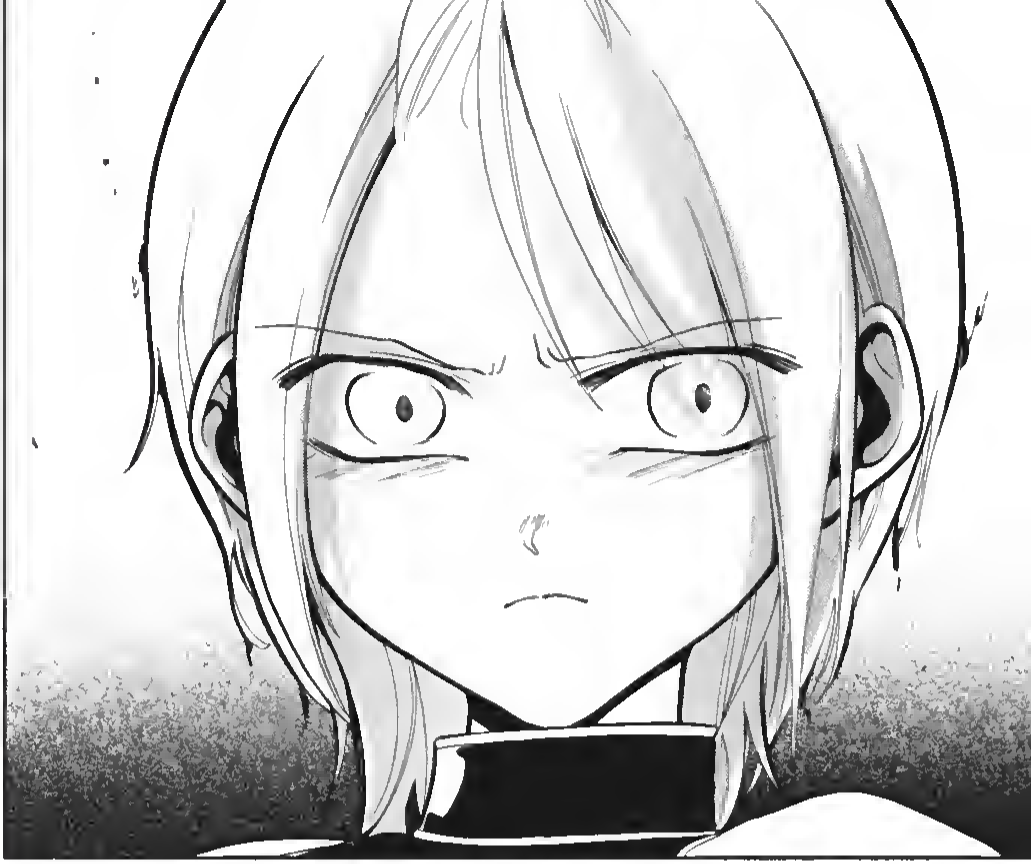
SENPAI?
MOMO-KO...
MO...
SHUUU (HISSS)
ウウ...

!!

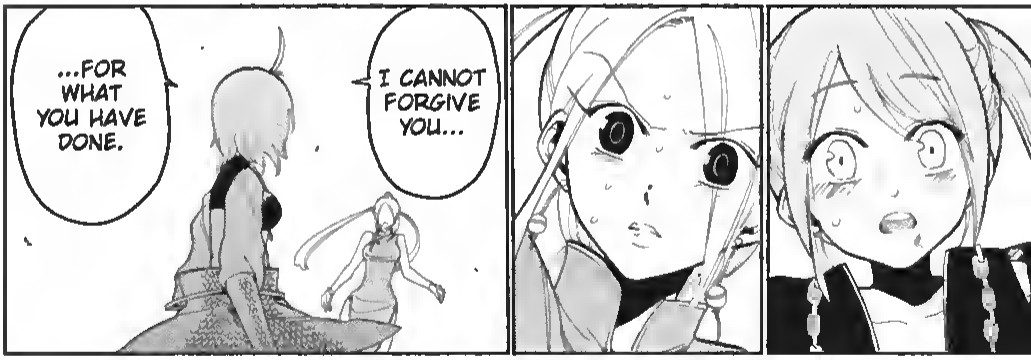
.....
THAT IS FAR ENOUGH.
WE HAVE LOST ...
...THIS INDIVIDUAL MATCH.
CHIRA (PEEK)
チラ!

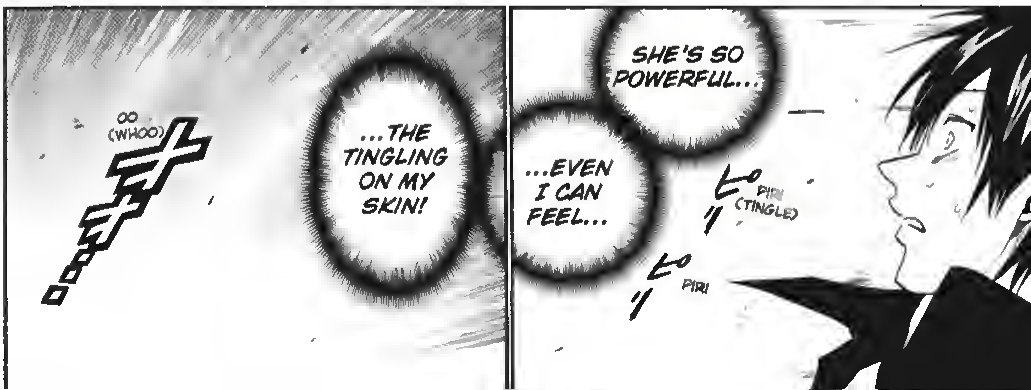

BIKU (FLINCH)
ビクッ
クルッ
KURU (SPIN)

HEY ...
UH ...
I THINK WE SHOULD WAIT UNTIL—
KOUSHI-DONO.
#7
GIKU (JERK)
AH!

LET US WOMEN TALK TOGETHER.
!
...THE MORE FUN THEY ARE AS TOYS...
IT'S TRUE— THE MORE IN LOVE OTHER PEOPLE ARE...
CAT-FIGHT!
I CAN'T WAIT!
EEEK!
HOW SCARY!




...FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE.
I CANNOT FORGIVE YOU...


OO (WHOO)
...THE TINGLING ON MY SKIN!
SHE'S SO POWERFUL...
...EVEN I CAN FEEL...
PIRI (TINGLE)
PIRI

CHAPTER 38. BEGGING – END / SUMOMOMO MOMOMO 5 END

TRANSLATION NOTES

Sumomomo, Momomo is part of a well-known Japanese tongue twister which reads, "Sumomo *mo momo mo momo no uchi*," and roughly means, "Plums and peaches are part of the peach family."

Camman Honorifics
No honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness. If used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would be an insult.
-san: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.
-sama: Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.
-dono: A polite, formal honorific suffix.
-kun: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.
-chan: An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.
-sensei: A respectful term for teachers, artists, or high-level professionals.
-nii, onii-san, nii-chan: Used to address one's older brother or brother figure.
-nee, onee-san, nee-chan: Used to address ones's older sister or sister figure.

Page 24
Catfoil: In this case, the plant shown is actually known as a neko*jarashi*, meaning "cat-exciter." A tall grass with a large head very similar to that found on catfoils, neko*jarashi* can easily be used as a cat toy, as shown here.

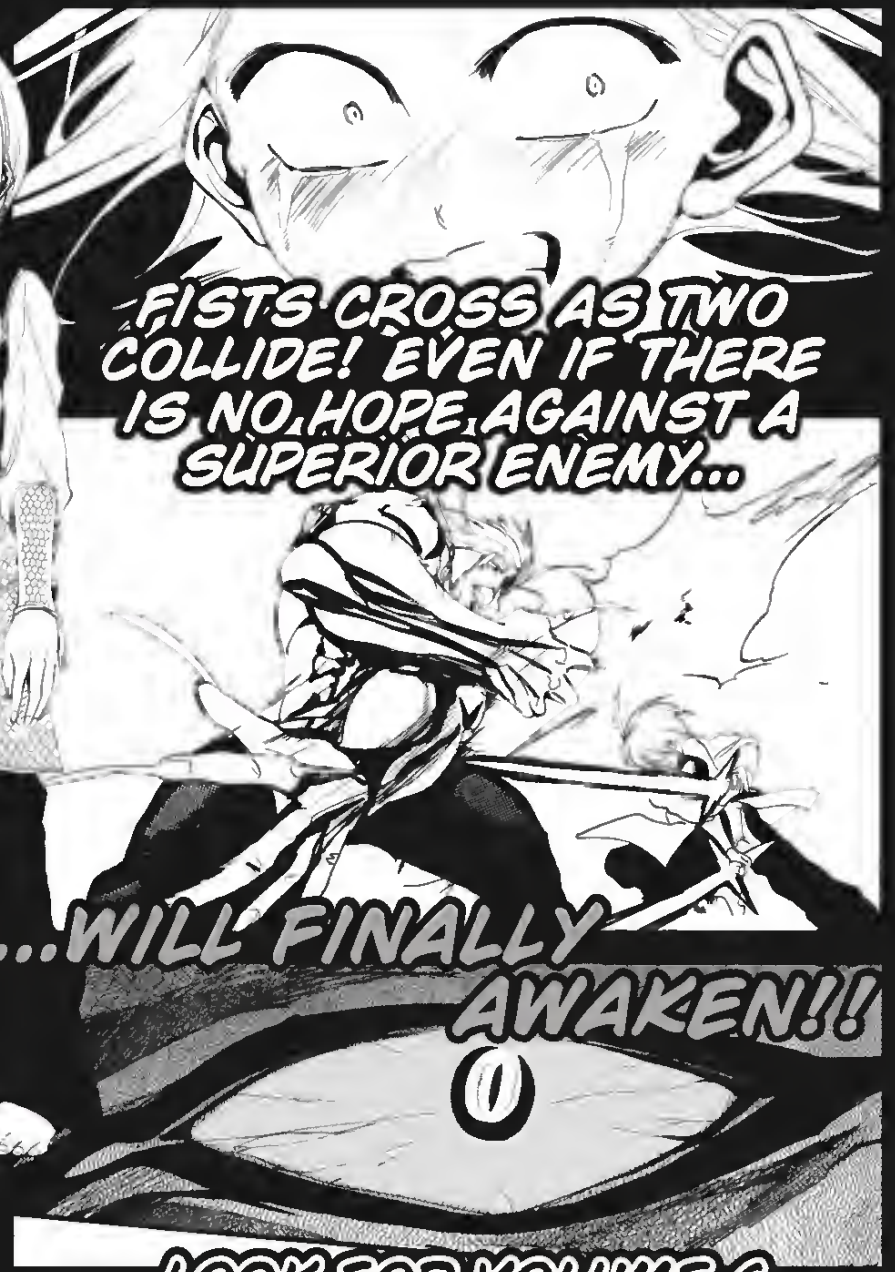
Page 38
Endou: The "en" part of this surname is written with the character for "monkey."

Antera Senpen-ryuu: In keeping with the pattern of the story, Antera is the heavenly general associated with the monkey in the Chinese Zodiac. Senpen-ryuu means "Infinite Changes Style."

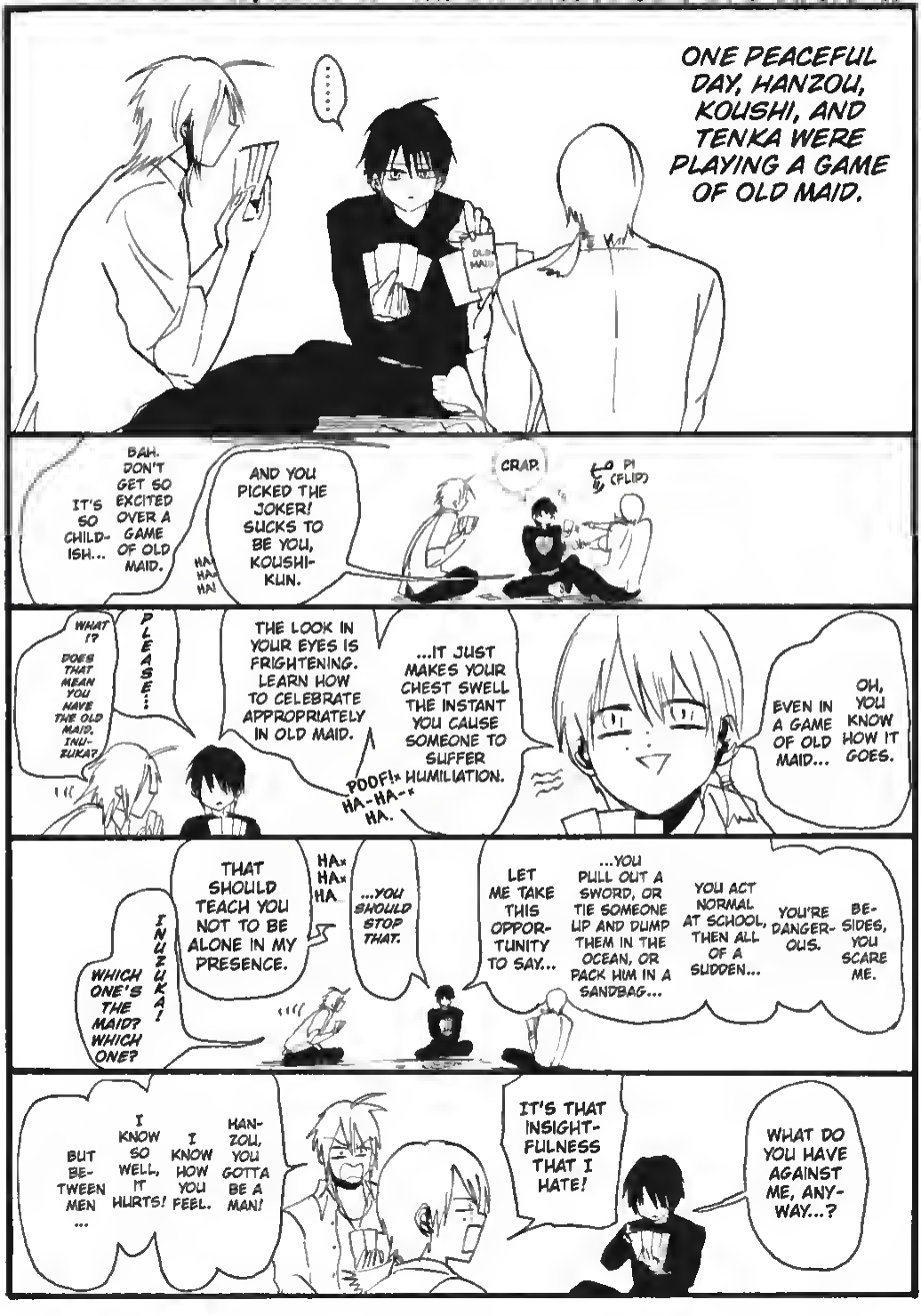
Page 158
Sakazuki: The name of a special saucerlike cup that is used in the consumption of sake. It has a special place in rituals meant to bond people unrelated by blood — rituals that take their name from the cup itself. The sakazuki ritual is especially prized and utilized within the yakuza community, which traditionally forms itself into "families" within individual organizations.

ULTIMATE PREVIEW
...OF A VIOLENT MARTIAL ARTIST!!
THE SORROWFUL FATE...
MOMOKO!
IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY!
THE TERRIBLE BATTLE WITH THE MIGHTY TENGA BEGINS!!

...WHY DOES MAN INSIST ON ENFORCING THE WILL OF LOVE AND BELIEF!?
AND NOW, A TRUE MARTIAL ARTIST'S POWER...
THE KOGANEI ARC REACHES ITS FINISH! AFTER THAT, THE CAMPUS STORY RESUMES ANEW!!
SUMOMO, MOMOMO
-THE STRONGEST BRIDE ON EARTH-
6



LOOK FOR VOLUME 6 IN STORES NOW!!


ONE PEACEFUL DAY, HANZOU, KOUSHI, AND TENKA WERE PLAYING A GAME OF OLD MAID.
.....
OLD MAID
BAH. DON'T GET SO EXCITED OVER A GAME OF OLD MAID.
IT'S SO CHILD-ISH...
AND YOU PICKED THE JOKER! SUCKS TO BE YOU, KOUSHI-KUN.
HA-HA-HA!
CRAP.
:P (FLIP)
WHAT!?
DOES THAT MEAN YOU HAVE THE OLD MAID, INUZUKA?
PLEASE...
THE LOOK IN YOUR EYES IS FRIGHTENING. LEARN HOW TO CELEBRATE APPROPRIATELY IN OLD MAID.
...IT JUST MAKES YOUR CHEST SWELL THE INSTANT YOU CAUSE SOMEONE TO SUFFER HUMILIATION.
POOF!* HA-HA-* HA.
EVEN IN A GAME OF OLD MAID...
OH, YOU KNOW HOW IT GOES.
INUZUKA!
WHICH ONE'S THE MAID? WHICH ONE?
THAT SHOULD TEACH YOU NOT TO BE ALONE IN MY PRESENCE.
HA* HA* HA
...YOU SHOULD STOP THAT.
LET ME TAKE THIS OPPOR-TUNITY TO SAY...
...YOU PULL OUT A SWORD, OR TIE SOMEONE UP AND DUMP THEM IN THE OCEAN, OR PACK HIM IN A SANDBAG...
YOU ACT NORMAL AT SCHOOL, THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN...
YOU'RE DANGER-OUS.
BE-SIDES, YOU SCARE ME.
BUT BE-TWEEN MEN ...
I KNOW SO WELL, IT HURTS!
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.
HAN-ZOU, YOU GOTTA BE A MAN!
IT'S THAT INSIGHT-FULNESS THAT I HATE!
WHAT DO YOU HAVE AGAINST ME, ANY-WAY...?

...FAIR AND SQUARE...
...A BATTLE SHOULD ALWAYS BE...
WHAT? NOOO!
NIYA (SMIRK)
BIKU (TWITCH)
OLD MAID
UH-OH.
OHH?
HEH, SUCKER.
TENKA-KUN, YOU NEED HELP...
IDIOT.
NOOOO!
OLD MAID
...I JUST HOPE I NEVER TURN OUT LIKE YOU.
I DON'T THINK OF YOU AS A RIVAL...
I'LL BE HONEST.
← RIVAL
PI (FLIK)
AAAH!
OLD MAID

WHAAAAT!?
YOU'VE BEEN LOSING THIS ENTIRE TIME!!
YOU'LL NEVER GET A GIRL THAT WAY!
... THEY'RE NOT GONNA GIVE IN TO SOMEONE SO OBVIOUSLY INTO THEM!
THE THING ABOUT GIRLS IS...
...AND CONTROL YOUR EMOTIONS A BIT...
UNLESS YOU LEARN TO BE LIKE MR. UNFRIENDLY OVER HERE...
I CAN'T HATE SOMEONE AS EMOTIONAL AND DESPERATE AS YOU. YOU'RE SIMPLY COMICAL.
...BUT I'M NOT A GUY WITH A .000% SUCCESS RATE LIKE YOU!
OH, SHUT UP! TRUE, I MIGHT BE A LOSER NOW...
DON'T TRY TO LORD IT OVER ME WHEN YOU'RE NO BETTER!
BUT YOU'RE JUST AS MUCH OF A LOSER HERE!
LOOK AT YOU! YOU'RE ALL SATISFIED LIVING LIKE SOME KIND OF HOUSEWIFE!
HANZOU IS A FORMER STREET THUG. BEFORE HIS PLUNGE INTO THE WORLD OF THE YAKUZA, HE DISCOVERED THE MYSTERIOUS PRINCIPLE OF "BAD BOY POPULARITY" IN HIS LITTLE HOMETOWN!
GIRL #2
WHAT YOU LOOKIN' AT?
BAD=BOY= 4=LYFE
GIRL #1
.....
WELL, NOT IN THE PAST.
HUH?
YOU= MEAN= YOU'RE= NOT...?
.....?
I MEAN, THAT'S THE VIBE YOU GIVE OFF.
I ASSUME IT'S ZERO.
...HUH?
...AND MORE MANLY...
.....
...BUT THEY'RE MORE GROWN-UP...
...AND SMALLER THAN ME...
I-I HAD NO IDEA... THESE GUYS ARE THE SAME AGE AS ME...

...EVEN I...!
...EVEN I...
BE QUIET! THIS IS HURTING MY HEART!
OKAY! OKAY, WE GET IT! JUST STOP...
I'M PRETTY SURE I HEARD RUMORS ABOUT IT...
OR AT LEAST, I THINK THEY WERE
THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT ME IN THE GIRLS' ROOM..
AT SUMMER CAMP
AND ONCE
SEE? THEY NEED ME
"GET THAT BOOK DOWN PLEASE."
OR
"THROW OUT THE TRASH FOR ME."
HAVE GIRLS TELL ME...
WAH!
ワナ WANA
ワナ WANA (SHIVER)
IT'S NOTHING TO CRY OVER...
(THEY×LET×HIM×WIN)
UGH...×
SYM-PATHY WIN
YAAAY!× I×WON!
...IT'S NOT YOUR PLACE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT SUCCESS WITH...YOU KNOW...
IN OTHER WORDS ...
AS A STUDENT, YOUR PRIMARY CONCERN SHOULD BE YOUR STUDIES.
WE'RE STILL MINORS. WE'RE ONLY SEVEN-TEEN.
IT'S NOT SO STRANGE.
IN FACT, YOU COULD SAY IT'S THE RIGHT WAY TO BE.

...
NOT ONCE? AND NO OTHER GIRLS EITHER?
OF COURSE NOT.
...YOU REALLY HAVEN'T GONE ANYWHERE WITH MOMOKO-CHAN?
SO, UH...
...IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH THAT?
IS...
I OVERESTIMATED YOU, KOUSHI-KUN!
YOU HAVE ZERO VICTORIES AS WELL! YOU AREN'T EVEN A MAN! YOU'RE NOT EVEN IN THE PICTURE!
I WIN!
ALL THIS TIME, BEHIND THAT SMUG FACE WAS JUST A LITTLE BOY...
KOUSHI-OONOOOOO...
!
...THAT I CAN'T SEE YOU EVER BEATING ME AT...
...I CAN SAFELY SAY...
GOGOGO (RUMBLE)
ゴゴゴゴ
ALREADY HAVING THE CONFIDENCE AND STATUS OF A TRUE MAN...

KOUSHI-SENPAAAI!
KOUSHI-DONOOOO!
KOUSHI-SENPAI!
KOUSHI-DONO!
INU-ZUKA-KUN
INU-ZUKA-KUN.
KOUSHI-SENPAI!
KOUSHI-DONO!
INU-ZUKA-KUN
KOUSHI-SENPAI!
KOUSHI-DONO!
ZURU ZURU ZURU (DRAG)
ズル ズル ズル
INU-ZUKA-KUN
WHOEVER ABANDONS THE BATTLE BY FOCUSING ON THE WIN-LOSS RECORD IS BOUND TO BE THE LOSER.
PICK UP THE CARDS, GUYS.
THEY LOST.
END

STAFF:
MAKIKO HORI
SHUHGO MURAKAMI
FUMIE ITOU
SEIKO KIZU

AUTHOR:
SHINOBU OHTAKA

THE STRONGEST CLASS REP ON EARTH

SANAE NAKAJIMA

THE GRANDDAUGHTER OF THE LEADER OF THE NAKAJIMA FAMILY—HIDDEN PROTECTORS OF THE INUZUKA CLAN—WHO POSSESSES GREAT POTENTIAL. EVEN KNOWING HER LINE'S SORROWFUL FATE TO NEVER BE JOINED WITH THEIR CHARGES, SHE CONTINUES TO FIGHT FOR THE MAN SHE LOVES!

SANTERA SHINGO-RYUU MARTIAL ARTS

SHINGO WILLPOWER PEGASUS RAIMENT

AN ALTERABLE GARMENT, THE STRONGEST EXAMPLE OF "PEGASUS RAIMENT" FOUND AMONG THE NAKAJIMA CLAN'S CONSIDERABLE ARMORY. IT ENHANCES THE POWER OF THE WEARER'S INDIVIDUAL LIMBS AND IS CAPABLE OF GENERATING SUPERHUMAN KICKING POWER! HOWEVER, BECAUSE IT ALSO FORCES CONSIDERABLE STRESS ON THE WEARER, ONLY THE MOST PROMISING AND TALENTED OF THE CLAN'S MEMBERS CAN USE IT.

SANTERA SHINGO-RYUU SECRET ART COMPENDIUM

WILLPOWER DRILLING LEG

A THRUSTING KICK WITH ALL THE ATTACK POWER CONCENTRATED IN THE LEGS. WITH THE PEGASUS RAIMENT EQUIPPED, THE STRENGTH AND SPEED OF THIS KICK IS ASTONISHING. THE POWER AND STYLE OF THE KICK CAN BE ALTERED DEPENDING ON WHICH RAIMENT IS BEING WORN.

WILLPOWER FLIGHT LEG

BY KICKING REPEATEDLY IN THE AIR AT ULTRA-SPEED, THE BEARER OF THIS MOVE CAN STEP INTO THE ATMOSPHERE AND CONTROL AIR AT WILL. AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT ART THAT ONLY THE MOST TALENTED AND DISCIPLINED AMONG THE NAKAJIMA CLAN CAN ACCOMPLISH.

WILLPOWER PEGASUS CONVICTION HOOF

BY KICKING REPEATEDLY INTO THE AIR WITH WILLPOWER FLIGHT LEG, THE USER FLOATS HIGH INTO THE SKY AND DELIVERS A RAINING BLOW AGAINST THE TARGET FAR BELOW. AN ENORMOUS BLAST OF DESTRUCTIVE AIR PRESSURE IN THE SHAPE OF A GIANT HOOF COMPLETELY FLATTENS THE ENEMY.

SANTERA SHINGO-RYUU GARMENT COMPENDIUM

SHINGO WILLPOWER PEGASUS RAIMENT PART 1

A BLACK SUIT THAT IS EASILY MODIFIED. BY STRIPPING OFF EXTRA PIECES OF THE SUIT, THE STRENGTH OF ITS ENHANCEMENT IS MAGNIFIED! IT ORIGINALLY FEATURED AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT DESIGN, BUT KIMIE CHANGED IT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SANAE'S IMPETUS— HER SENSE OF SHAME.

SHINGO WILLPOWER PEGASUS RAIMENT PART 2

A PEACH-COLORED SUIT EVOLVED FROM THE ONE DESCRIBED IN "PART 1." THE RATE OF POWER ENHANCEMENT IS INCREASED, AND IT MAKES THE LEGS THAT MUCH MORE QUICK AND PRECISE. HOWEVER, AS THE SUIT IS ATTACKED, ITS PIECES FALL OFF ONE BY ONE— ANOTHER DESIGN CHOICE MADE BY SANAE'S GRANDMOTHER, KIMIE.

SUMOMOMO MOMOMO⑤

Shinobu Ohtaka

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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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